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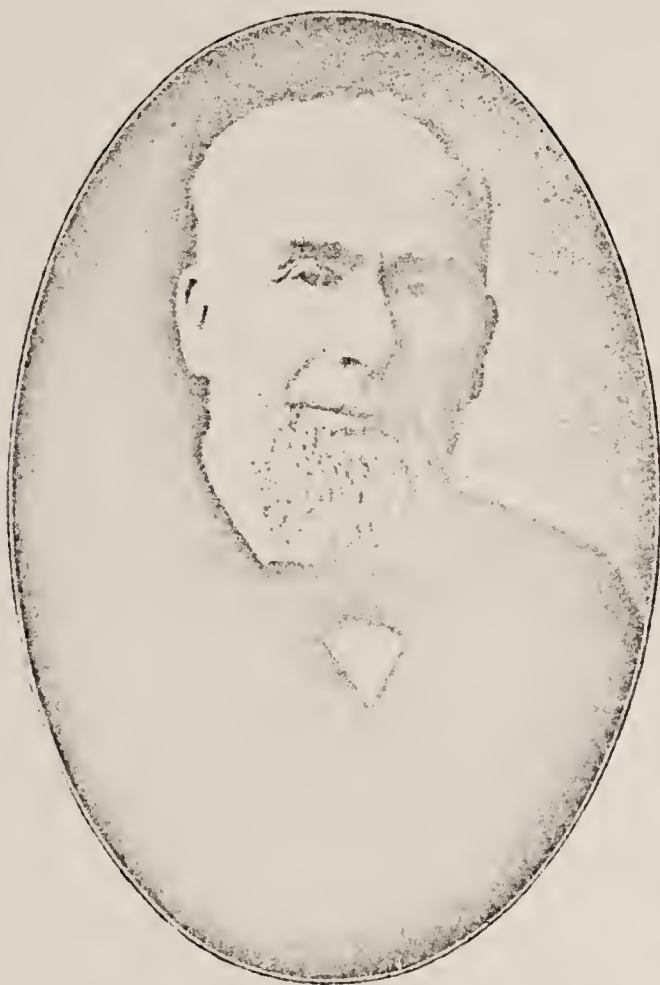


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OTTO RALL



ANNA STEINER RALL

THE STORY of the FAMILY ✓

of

OTTO AND ANNA STEINER

RALL



Privately Printed for the Members of the Family

1925

Gift 160

Harris F. Rall
Evanston, Ill.

1676537

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Foreword

The purpose of this story explains its character. It is not written for the public eye, nor even for a circle of friends, but only for the members of the family group. In it we as children have noted many incidents and experiences which would not deserve keeping for others but which will call to our minds the old days. The first purpose, then, is to keep the memory of those days and thus preserve the old ties that have meant so much. The second purpose is to picture those conditions for our children that they may preserve the spirit which father and mother sought to give to us, the frugality, the industry, the simple piety, the loyalty to all obligations, the appreciation of the higher values of life. And finally, we want to express through these pages our filial affection and our appreciation of that home which may have been poor in material respect, but was rich in that which is most worth while.

Earlier portions of this book dealing with the story of the old home in Germany and Switzerland, will have presumably an interest for others outside our immediate family circle, including the members of the pretty widespread and populous Rall and Steiner clans. This foreword will make plain to these the intimate and detailed character of so much of this material.

The Children of Otto and Anna Steiner Rall.



JULIUS FRIEDRICH RALL.



AGATHE LEUZE RALL.

I. The Ralls Across the Sea

In the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, in the midst of the Swabian Alp, lies the village of Eningen, which has been the home of the Ralls for over 300 years. The country roundabout is one of the most beautiful in Germany, with hills and valleys, orchards and vineyards, forests and rich fields, and picturesque villages. Eningen lies in a broad valley. Above it rises the Achalm, a hill, or mountain, of some 2,300 feet. In Swiss and south German usage Ach means water, especially flowing water, and Alm is the same as Alp. Achalm is thus water alp, the hill, or alp, with water, or springs. Its crest is rocky and bears a lofty tower, all that is left of an ancient castle. The hill stands alone and commands a beautiful view. On the other side of the Achalm lies the flourishing city of Reutlingen of which Eningen is practically a suburb, being but two or three miles distant. Where Eningen is referred to it is commonly given as Eningen *bei Reutlingen* (that is, near Reutlingen) or Eningen u. Achalm (u. = unter, that is, under the Achalm).

Eningen has some nine thousand people. It is properly called not a village but a *Marktflecken*, that is, a market town of the second class. The right to hold the great biennial markets, or fairs, was a high privilege in older days and was specifically conferred. Eningen was a center for cloths, laces, and the like, and during the year many of her men went as tradesmen and pedlars throughout the south country. It is still a country village. When Frank and Rose were there in 1898, it had but one factory and was not yet connected by steam or electric road.

A correspondent, Mr. Udo Rall, writes: "My father's people were peasants, but also engaged in umbrella manufacture as a home industry. The umbrellas which were made during the winter were peddled throughout the country in spring and early summer. As a rule several families

coöperated in getting out a sort of prairie schooner to which they entrusted their goods. I believe that this practice had been going on for generations past until some thirty years ago, when the conditions of modern industry made such methods as these impossible. At present members of the clan are running umbrella factories in Reutlingen, Stuttgart, Plauen, and one or two other cities." He adds, "*Wanderlust* seems to be a typical trait of the clan. My impression was that there was a Gallic, possibly Latin, admixture to the family, as is the case with many families in the southwest corner of Germany."

Mr. Louis Rall of Glasgow, Missouri, who left Eningen in 1865 and was a boyhood friend of Cousin David Koch, is responsible for the following story as to the origin of the Ralls. He writes that as a young man he assisted pastor Eifert of Eningen by looking up records there and in Reutlingen for a history of Eningen which the latter was compiling. From these records he gathered that several hundred years ago an Italian named Rallo was in the service of the count that lived in the Burg on the Achalm as his *Knappe*, or squire. This castle was destroyed during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), and at the close of this war Rallo settled down in Eningen, married a German wife, and Teutonized his name by dropping the final o. He states that the house built by this Rall was still standing in the Rangengasse when he left Germany in 1865.

Mr. Louis Rall died in 1918. He lived for a half century in Glasgow, Missouri, and was head of the firm of Rall Brothers, architects and builders. A daughter, Mrs. Fannie Rall Eels, wife of Rev. Alfred M. Eels, now pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Hillsboro, Illinois, reports a few additional facts. One correspondent of her father, a Rall living in Kansas, stated that the first Rall was named Rallo, and was an artist. She adds: "A member of the Passar family (also of Rall and Eningen descent) was interested in a searching of records for her children's sake. She learned that the first Rallo mentioned was a companion of a Graf (count), who had come from Italy, that he married a Swiss girl and then settled in Germany. I am under the impression that she, too, had discovered him to have been

an artist. She said that he was of good family, and not as my father had supposed a servant to the count." Some of this offers interesting confirmation, coming from another source. Mrs. Eels speaks of marked artistic tendencies in many members of her branch of the family. It is interesting, too, to think of the original Rall family as coming from a union with Swiss blood as in our own case.

Pfarrer Sussman of Eningen, retired, has recently been examining the records. He could not go beyond 1674, as he found the writing illegible, but he stated the name Rall was found as early as 1569, to which date the Eningen records go back. This is before the Thirty Years' War and he does not credit the story. May not Mr. Louis Rall simply be in error at the one point, and was it not more likely the Peasants' War (1524-1525) in which this destruction took place? The real seat of the former war was elsewhere. The latter war began in this southern region and was marked everywhere by much disorder and destruction.

Other items seem favorable to the story. Rall is not a peculiarly German name. Rallo is found in Italy today. Apparently all the Ralls come from this one village. In individual instances where they have been removed for a longer period they have again and again been traced back. Some are in Russia, whose fathers were carried there, impressed into Napoleon's army, and who write their name Rallé in French style. Frank corresponded some years ago with a Lutheran clergyman in Russia, Herr Probst Rall, who stated that his family came from Saxony but that tradition pointed back to southern Germany. Eningen itself is full of Ralls. A German geographical work published in 1880 states that there were then 240 families there by that name. All this indicates a family that had its origin in this one village.

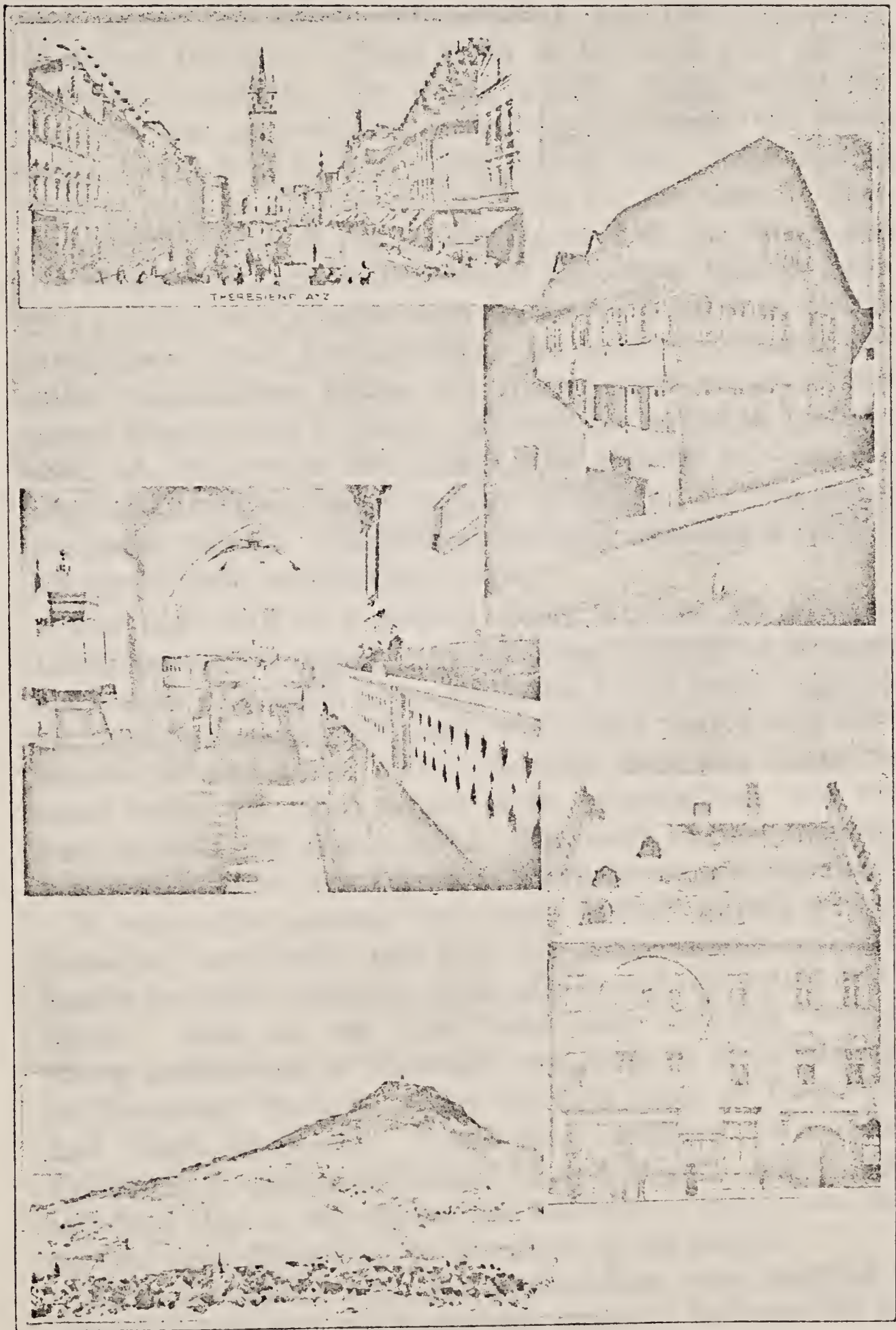
Dr. Patrick J. Maveety, formerly Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in conversation with Frank has suggested the possibility of a relation between us and the family of his mother, who, like his father, is of Irish nativity and whose family name was Rhall. He referred to relatives by this name in Brook-

lyn and in Pittsburgh. One of these, Mr. John J. Rahill, detective in the New York Police Department (Brooklyn), wrote in response to inquiry: "My father's name was Patrick and he came from County Cavan, Ireland, and he spelled his name the same as you do." (Mr. Rahill probably had in mind the spelling Rhall instead of Rall.) There were a number of Germans from the Palatinate who settled in Ireland long ago, and it is possible that there were Ralls from Wuerttemberg among them. Dr. Maveety says that the Irish Rhalls come from County Longford on the Shannon and are quite numerous in those parts.

Professor Andrew Zenos of McCormick Theological Seminary, himself a native of Greece, has called Frank's attention to the presence of the name Rallis or Ralli in Greece. He himself knew as a young man the Ralli who later became minister of war and prime minister of Greece. He considers the name originally Greek and insisted that Mary's profile was distinctly Grecian. This might consist very well with the story of Italian origin in view of the heavy Greek influx into Italy in the early Christian centuries and later.

The large number of Ralls in one village lead to many complications. When Frank wrote to Aunt Agathe Rall his letter was returned; there were too many to choose from by the same name. Had he added *Wwe.*, (the abbreviation for *Witwe*, widow) after the German fashion, there would still have been five by that name, all widows. He might have used her husband's name and written Frau Jakob Rall, but there were three by this name. However, he remembered her maiden name and added that in the customary German style. It was because of this that the Ralls all had nicknames attached. Grandfather was known as Kloeferle Rall, and father was Kloeferle's Otto. In the tax lists Aunt Agathe is down as Frau Kloeferle Rall. Cousin David Koch's grandfather on his mother's side was a Rall. He was a cooper by trade and so his name went as David Rall, *Kuefer*. Incidentally this indicates how family names arise.

The earlier church records of Eningen are now quite illegible. We can go back seven generations, though the



ENINGEN AND STRAUBING

1. Street in Straubing showing building of Rall Brothers.
2. Birthplace of Otto Rall.
3. Interior of church in Eningen.
4. Home of the firm, Rall Brothers, in Straubing.
5. Eningen with the Achalm in the background.

last step does not give us dates of birth and death. The first names are Jakob Rall, *Mueller*, and his wife, Anna Christina Haeuszin. They lived in the first part of the eighteenth century. The name *Mueller* stands added for the next two generations, indicating the trade, the name being David Rall in both cases (David Rall Elder can go back at least to 1774 in the Rall clan for his name.). Concerning the death of the second David Rall, the record has this notation in Latin and German: *sub arbore fulmine ictus. D. 11 Juli wurde abends nach 6 Uhr im Wald vom Wetter erschlagen David Rall, Mueller. Er stand bei einer Eiche unter. Sein Haar hinten am Haupt ward versengt, der ganze Ruecken rot u. blau.* (Struck by lightning under a tree. A little after six o'clock, the evening of June 11, David Rall, Miller, was struck by lightning. He was standing under an oak. The hair of his head was singed behind, his whole back was red and blue.)

The next Rall is a Johann Georg and is put down as *Landkraemer*, or pedlar. At this time the men of Eningen not merely sold their cloths and laces at the yearly markets but traveled north and south with their wares and were known far and wide. With the next Rall, who bears the same name, we come to our great grandfather, who was born in 1771 and died in 1841. He seems to have mounted a step higher and is put down as *Handelsmann*, or merchant.

It was quite natural that these pedlars should become traveling merchants, and that the latter should establish depots for their wares in other places and ultimately settle down. And so we find four sons of this Johann Georg establishing a wholesale dry goods or cloth business in Straubing, Bavaria, under the firm name of Gebrueder Rall (Rall Brothers). These four brothers were Julius Friedrich, J. Georg, Christian L., and Jakob. And it may be added that at last report the business in retail was still carried on in Straubing by members of the family.

Julius Friedrich Rall, our grandfather, was married to Agathe Leuze and the home was made in Eningen on her account. His business compelled his presence in Straubing and he could visit his family but twice a year. The home was on the *Burggasse* back of the brewery *zum Ochsen*.

Julius Friedrich Rall had four children, Christina, Friedrika, Jakob, Karl Otto. Father was the last named and youngest of these four. He was usually called Otto, and later dropped the name Karl, or Charles, altogether. Father was born February 28, 1838, and baptized on March 2, by Pfarrer Eifert, the witnesses being Johann Georg Rall, Jakob Leuze, and Christina Leuze.

Mr. Louis Rall of Glasgow, Missouri, gives an interesting picture of this Pastor Eifert. "I will never forget him and his dear wife," he writes. "No wonder he was not rich in money. He and his wife fed many hungry children. I myself stilled my hunger in the parsonage. If Mrs. Eifert heard of a poor, sick person, she was not slow to help with food and clothes." Mr. Rall described a popular night school which Pastor Eifert held. Once a week he gathered the boys and men for this meeting which was of the nature of a popular lecture. "He brought newspapers, read and explained, spoke about explorers, art and almost everything of interest. He understood how to please young and old." In this night school he spoke one evening about the origin of the Ralls, telling the story given above.

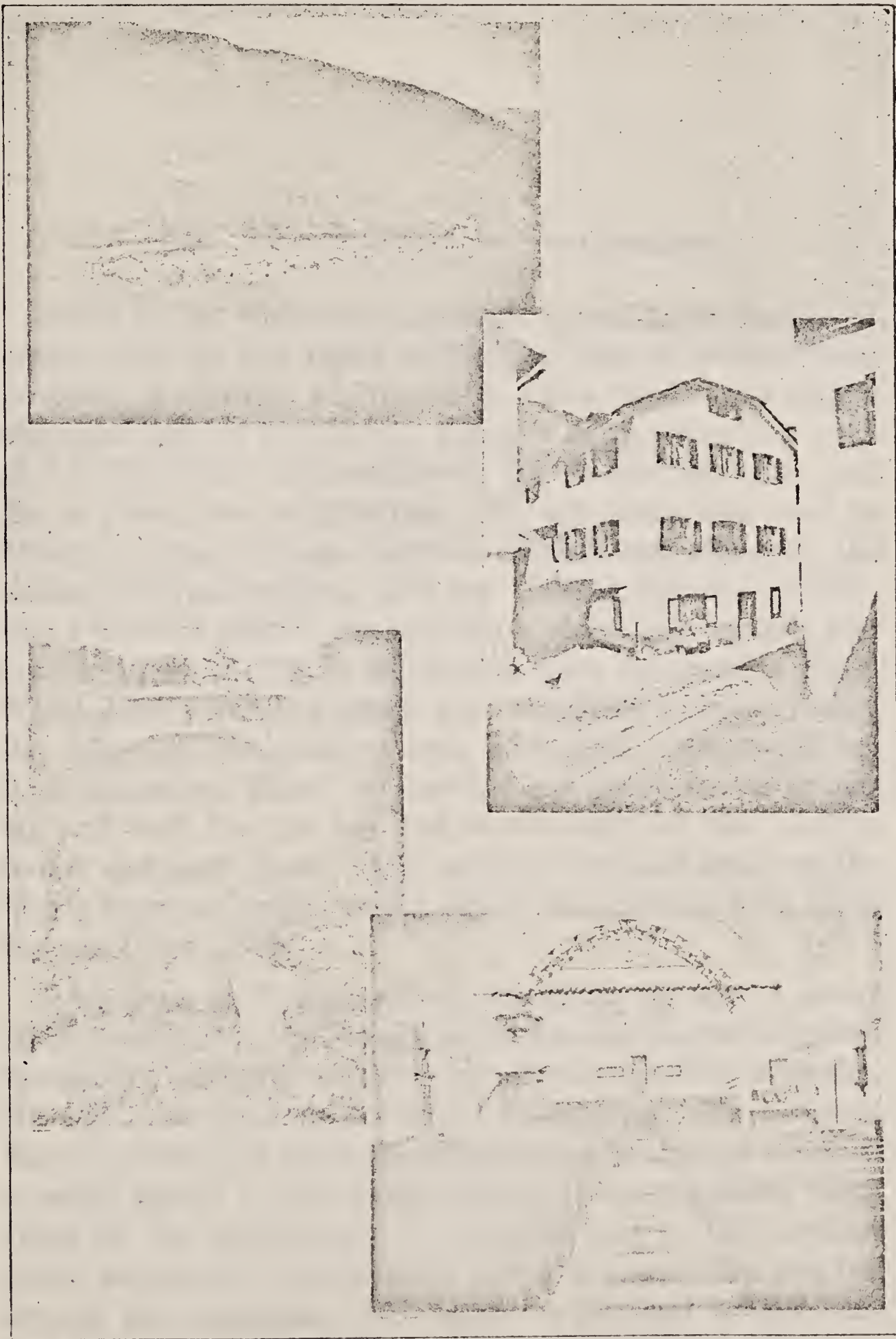
II. Father Comes to America

In 1853 father left his home in Enningen at the age of fifteen. He was his mother's favorite and she made him promise to come back to her again. It was forty years before he returned. It was in Baltimore that he landed, a city that had quite a population from the older German immigration. After a short stay in Baltimore, he went to Washington, where he remained for something like a year, working part of the time as a baker.

It was in 1854 or 1855 that he came to Pittsburgh. Here he learned the trade of a saddler at Birchfield's, working later for Loughrey and Frew, now Loughrey's. One of his acquaintances was a Mr. Falkenstein. The latter was related to Mr. Koerner, a trustee and active worker in Zion Church of the Evangelical Association, located then at 538 Sixth Avenue. In this church he was converted to God and received upon probation January 18, joining the church in full membership July 6, 1857. He became at once an active and interested worker in the church and Sunday School, serving in the latter as teacher and officer, and here he met his future wife, Anna Steiner. Father was then a slim, dark haired youth of about five feet and five and a half inches. His special cronies were C. O. Renz, Charles Fester, and Fred Schmunk. He was an active advocate of Christianity and of his church, always ready to defend it and its principles and practices against all comers. He had many an argument with Rev. Mr. Mueller of the Lutheran Church, who lived next door to John Niebaum, a brother of Uncle Hermann. In Niebaum's store Otto would hold his own against Mr. Mueller and others, and they would often say, *Ja, Otto, du wirst noch ein Prediger* ("Yes, Otto, you'll be a preacher yet.")

The influence of the old home must not be overlooked here. Father's mother was a woman of strong character

and very devout spirit. She was greatly rejoiced when news came back of father's conversion. After father's marriage mother wrote to her frequently and she had a special pleasure in the letters that came *von der lieben Anna*. The religious life of Wuerttemberg, or of the Swabians, has always been noted for its warm, devout, evangelical tone. In the church service the simpler liturgy of the Reformed faith was used. They were accustomed also to having their little circles which met at private homes during the week for Bible readings and prayer, much like our prayer meetings. These were private meetings, these *Stunden* (compare the Russian sect, *Stundists*), not under the direction of the church, though the pastors were often sympathetic and attended. I believe these meetings are still continued in Eningen. Something like them spread pretty widely thru the German churches of the last generation in what is known as the *Gemeinschaftsbewegung*. This old Wuertemberger pietism marked father's home and left its impress upon him.



ANDEER AND VICINITY

1. Andeer. 2. Birthplace of Anna Steiner Rall. 3. Bridge over gorge of Upper Rhine below Andeer. 4. Interior of church at Andeer.

III. The Steiners in Switzerland

Early in the eighteenth century, a well-to-do family of gentle birth by the name of Steiner lived in Switzerland, probably in the city of Neuchatel. The family was highly respected and of the Roman Catholic faith. One son married a Protestant girl, embraced the Protestant faith, and for so doing was disinherited. He left home and went to Zizers, a small village between Zurich and Chur in the canton of Graubuenden. His son, Johann Battista Steiner, was a harness maker. He married a Meier and one son was born to them in 1798, to whom they gave the name of John. While John was yet a small boy, Napoleon's army crossed the Alps and the soldiers took everything they could lay their hands on. John's mother hid her silver spoons in her lap and held him on top, but to no avail for the soldiers found and took them. His mother died and later on the father married again, which union was blessed with three boys and three girls.

John went to France with a friend at the age of about 15 and enlisted in the French army, serving under Napoleon Bonaparte and later in the army of Louis XVIII in Spain. He was a corporal in the Royal Bodyguard. He resigned May 17, 1825, and with his certificate of discharge received a paper signed by the chief officers of his regiment testifying to his faithfulness as corporal and to the conduct which earned for him the good will of his superiors and the love of his comrades. The latter is attested by the fact that this paper as reproduced below was not only signed by the officers but afterwards filled by the names of his fellows in arms. The paper is headed by a coat of arms with the

French fleur-de-lis, with crown and eight flags, and with the following:

ROYAL GUARD

Swiss Regiment of Besenval N. 8
1st Battallion 6th Company of Salis

We, the undersigned, chief officers of the Regiment and Commander of said Company, certify that Corporal John Steiner, born in Zitzers, Canton Graubunden, Switzerland, served bravely and faithfully in said Regiment up to May 17, 1825; that he has received his formal release, and that during his time of service he earned the good will of his superiors and the love of his comrades by his good conduct.

For these reasons we give him this paper as a testimony of our appreciation of his efficient service.

Rueil, May 17, 1825.

The Battallion-Chef Rösule Oltehde 18	The Commandant of the Company
The Chef-Lieutenant Gaehter	Boon Salis Sogle
Clavadetseher, Sergeant	The Marechal de Camp, Obriest of the Regiment
Raymond, Corporal	C. Boon Besenval
Stephan Fluber	André Pruffner Cambour
Senti Antoin	Quffner Je Clavadetseher fusilier

In 1825 John Steiner returned to Zizers and took up his father's trade as harness maker. In 1826 he married Anna Barbara Joos and they settled in her home in Andeer, Kreis Schams, Canton Graubunden. Anna Barbara was one of ten children: Anna, Christina, Katrina, Conradin, Georg, Raget, Jakob, and Anna Barbara, with two who died in infancy. Anna Barbara was born December 25, 1807. Her parents were fairly well to do as matters went in such a village. They had their horses, cattle and goats, their little parcels of land in the valley outside the village, and their larger tracts up on the Alps, where they cut the fine grass and cured it for hay. As they do in Switzerland to this day, they would take the cows and goats up into the Alps during the summer, making the butter and the cheese, the latter in part from the mixed milk of both. The life was very simple and wholesome. They had their old world

way of doing things, as you may still find it to some extent. The *kleine Waesche*, for example, they would have every few weeks, the *grosse Waesche* but twice a year. At the latter, the "big washing", large quantities of bedding, linen and clothing would be washed. The water came thru pipes from the mountain side, as in the village today. After a couple of days of hard washing, the clothes would be taken to the river. Here the town had formed a place called *der See* (the lake, or pool) about twenty feet square, lined with flat stones and giving a depth of one foot of water. Large boards were placed at the sides and here the clothes received their final rinsing and pounding, until, perfectly clean, they were hauled back and laid out on the grass to dry.

The external surroundings we can easily picture, for the village has not changed much in these years. A few houses have been added, a summer hotel built for the summer visitors, the little old brewery changed into a Roman Catholic chapel, but that is all. The church, over 250 years old, still looks down the valley from the eminence which it occupies with its little cemetery. The population is about the same, some 600. Frank and Rose were there in the fall of 1898 and again in the spring of 1899. Edward visited it in 1924. The schoolmaster at the time of Frank's visit was Johannes Joos, a cousin of mother. The pastor, Pfarrer Lutta, was a son of the old pastor of mother's childhood, and asked with interest about Johann Battista (Uncle John Steiner), his old playmate. Grandmother's old house is occupied by a Padrett, to whose father she had sold it. It was not hard, even after fifty years, to find old friends and relatives who knew Anna Barbara and her husband and remembered all the children in order with name and age.

Among others whom Frank found were Conradin Grischott and wife, old friends, whose daughter, Frau Padrett, lives in the old house. He has died since then. There were Frau Ursula Gartmann, a cousin of mother, Jakob Cadosi, an old schoolmate of mother, Jakob Frave, a cousin. Frau Janett was another cousin. Her son was studying medicine. Johann Joseph Mani, since deceased, was an old friend and occupied the house at the head of the

village which is probably four hundred years old. The house once belonged to the petty local governor, or Vogt, and its massive walls, a ceiling of fine wood carving, and the quaint allegorical figures on the walls of the banquet hall, make it well worth visiting.

Andeer lies far up the valley of the *Hinterrhein* (upper Rhine). Until some fifteen years ago it was 25 miles from the railway, which extended to Chur. Now a narrow gauge road takes one to Thusis, within seven miles of Andeer. A postroad leads from Thusis to Chiavenna, Italy, forty-one miles over the Spluegen Pass, where the railway is again reached. On this road lies Andeer. The road itself is of interest, for it was first laid out by the Romans, not so long, I suppose, after they conquered the Rhaetians, the ancient inhabitants whose blood flows in our veins. Not so famous as Napoleon's passage of St. Bernard, tho quite as courageous, was the deed of one of his marshals, Macdonald, who led an army across the Spluegen in December, 1800, with large losses from fearful avalanches.

After leaving Thusis the road to Andeer passes thru the Via Mala, where the Hinterrhein flows thru a narrow gorge that is very picturesque and beautiful. From one old stone bridge (built 1739) you look down to the rushing waters 160 feet below while the narrow walls of the valley reach above you almost perpendicularly, at places 1,600 feet high. For two or three miles below Andeer the valley broadens out and it is about a mile wide at the village. Round about the village are the carefully kept hayfields, where in the summer men, women and children go out to the work. On both sides rise the great mountains, while just above the village the valley narrows quickly and leads up to the Italian border, some fifteen miles distant, and to the Spluegen pass.

This is but one valley of a number that form, with endless mountain peaks and hills, the canton of Graubuenden, territorially the largest canton of Switzerland. Its best known part is the Engadine and Davos and Davosplatz, winter as well as summer resorts, with names like that of Robert Louis Stevenson, John Addington Symonds, and Nietzsche associated with them. The people of the canton,

with a few others of contiguous territory, speak a language of their own which appears in turn in several dialects. Its two prominent forms are known as Ladin (spoken in the Engadine) and Romontsch, which was mother's native tongue. These names indicate the origin. It is a Latin (Ladin) or Romance (Romontsch) tongue, like Italian, French and Spanish. There are some books and papers published in the language, but the German, which is taught in the schools, is gradually gaining ground on it. The people are known as the Graubuendner (Grayleaguers) or Grisons (Grays), from the day when they leagued themselves against their oppressors.

Andeer, with its location on this highway, made a good place for John Steiner, the harness maker. His wife, Anna Barbara, had some property of her own, a house given her by her godmother, which she sold to pay for the larger house in which they went to live. In the photo taken by Frank this house shows a third story which was added to it. They had some small plots of land for garden purposes and a cow with five or six goats and a few sheep and pigs. Two of her brothers, Conradin and Raget, were teamsters, hauling freight from Chur to Chiavenna and back, and grandfather Steiner sometimes made trips over into Italy to ply his trade. He was a frugal and industrious man, and careful and neat as to his dress. Grandmother was not yet nineteen when married, and was a bright and active young woman. Their home life was very happy. Nine children were given them: Ursula, Anna Margreth, Johann Battista, Katrina, Anna, Christina, Elizabeth, Jakob and Anna Barbara. Elizabeth and Anna Barbara died in infancy. In the summer of 1840, or thereabouts, Grandfather Steiner was taken ill, probably from being overheated in the hay field where he was helping. From this he never fully recovered and finally died in September, 1850.

IV. From Switzerland to America

In the old home they still remember Grandmother Steiner as an energetic and capable woman, and such she proved herself now to be after grandfather's death. Left with her young family, she carried on a bakery of which the oven was still to be seen in the yard of the house at Andeer in 1899. And what had only been discussed while the father was alive, hindered perhaps by his illness, was now carried out, the removal to America. It is no simple matter to transplant a whole family thousands of miles into a new and little known land. Since then a broad path has been made by the many thousands that have gone out from all these valleys, from Andeer itself perhaps a third of the people, so the schoolmaster estimated. Steamship and railroads on both sides have made it easy. At that time it meant a long journey by stage and rail to begin with, then the long hard voyage by sea, and a strange land over here.

It was in September, 1851, that grandmother sold her house and went forth with six of her children. Opposite their names in the village record was written, as later with so many others, *ausgewandert nach Amerika*. One member of the family, however, had taken the step before this. Ursula, the oldest daughter, had opposed the plan of the family's going and had decided that she would go alone, find out about this country, and then come back and persuade them to stay. So in April, 1849, she left Andeer alone, going by way of Muehlhausen, Paris, Havre and New York. A townswoman from Andeer, who had sponged on her all the way over, finally took from her hand in New York her last gold piece, and Ursula had to borrow money from a fellow countryman to finish her journey.

She was afraid of New York and decided to go to Pennsylvania because of a cousin of her father who lived there. This was the Rev. Philip Schaff, the noted church historian,

long connected with the Union Seminary, New York. The journey to Pittsburgh took thirteen days and cost thirteen dollars. They went by boat to Philadelphia and then by rail and canal to Pittsburgh. Here she secured work as cook in a boarding house, kept by a Mrs. Pfaller on Water Street, at a dollar and twenty-five cents a week. When she gave her name as Ursula her mistress said, "Oh, that is Julia in English," and Julia she became and remained. After a brief service at the National House and a longer one with a family named Frank on Second Avenue, she went to the home of William Dilworth.

She had not written for the family to come, but they had meanwhile set forth. They bore with them the following testimonials, which suggest the esteem in which the family was held. They indicate, too, the old world idea that every man must be duly accredited, a matter to which the new world paid very little attention, as they found out. The first is from their schoolmaster, written with the evident effort to be properly formal and impressive.

The undersigned feels himself inwardly moved hereby to declare and witness, that the bearers of this paper, that is to say, therefore, the following worthy six children of Master Joh. Steiner, deceased, and his wife, Anna Barbara, née Joos, which children have all received their schooling with him (as being for many years the school teacher in this place), and have not only shown and conducted themselves willingly, industriously, and obediently, but have also made very satisfactory progress, and have borne themselves both within and without the school in masterly and unblameable manner, so that he can and may commend them without reserve and in accordance with the truth as true, upright, and good children and people. Andeer, the second of June 1851.

CHRISTOF MEULI.

Schoolmaster.

Their names are: MARGRETH STEINER
JOH. BAPT. STEINER
CATHRINA STEINER
ANNA STEINER
JACOB STEINER
CHRISTINA STEINER

The genuineness of the above signature is attested under seal:

Andeer the third of June, 1851

LEON RAGATZ, *Magistrate.*

The second is from the magistrate and head of the parish:

The undersigned, head of the parish of Andeer in Schams, Canton Graubuenden, hereby testifies in the name of the directors of said parish that the family Steiner, which is emigrating to America, and which belongs to Zizers, has been for many years in the bounds of this parish, that all the members of said family have studiously followed a praiseworthy life, that they have carefully observed all the regulations of the parish, and that there is no criticism to be made upon their family relations, so that they deserve to be commended to men everywhere in the best manner.

The above is witnessed under seal by,

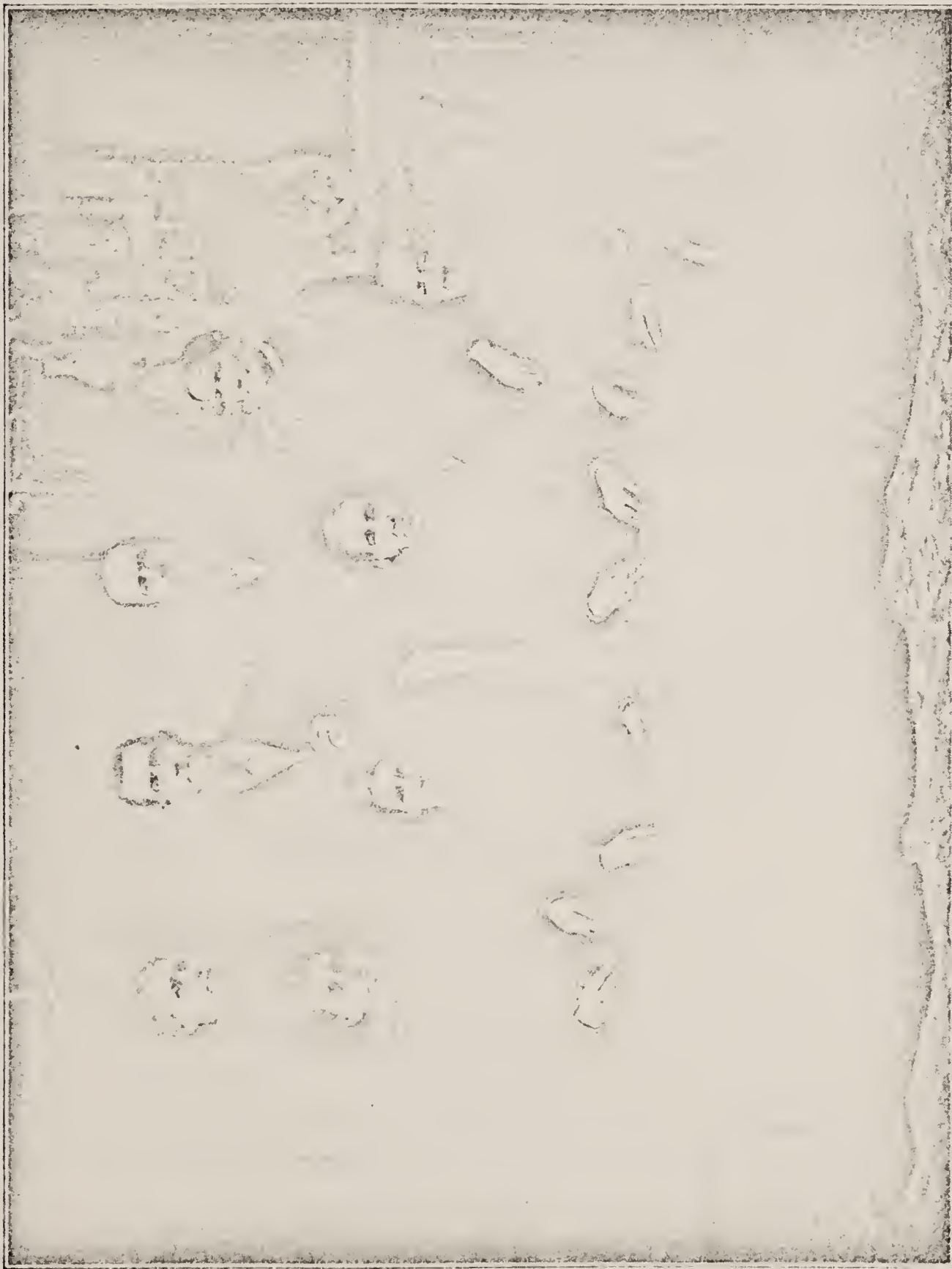
LEON RAGATZ.

Andeer the 28th of May, 1851.

To the above was appended the seal: "Parish of Andeer in Schams." The latter paper indicates that though the family had long lived in Andeer and held property there, they were still regarded as "belonging" legally in Zizers.

In connection with the name Leon Ragatz, it is interesting to note that one of the children, Katherine, later married a Ragatz in this country. Her husband, Rev. Oswald Ragatz, came from the village of Ragatz, some twenty miles below Andeer, from which no doubt Leon Ragatz or his family came as well. This village, now a prosperous watering place of two thousand or more, was founded by an ancestor of Uncle Oswald Ragatz, who had been driven out of France by the Huguenot persecutions. The charter obtained for this settlement from the government was in the possession of the family and came down to Uncle Oswald, from whom some lawyer secured it by means of misrepresentations.

Strange to say, they did not go to Pittsburgh, where Julia was, but to Milwaukee. The reason probably lay in the larger opportunities of a newer country and in the number of Swiss that had preceded them to the latter place. They went by way of New York, Buffalo, and the great lakes. In New York, Jacob, then a little fellow of eight was nearly lost. They lived together in Milwaukee for but a few months. Here grandmother married Christophel Steinert. In March, 1852, with Christina and Jacob, they went to Lomira, Wisconsin, where they bought some land and began



GRANDMOTHER STEINER AND CHILDREN

Left to right, standing: Katherine Steiner Ragatz, John B. Steiner, Jacob J. Steiner, Margaret Steiner Schaeffer.
Seated: Christina Steiner Huelster, Anna Steiner Rall, Julia Steiner Niebaum, Grandmother Steiner. 1889.

farming. This second union was not congenial, and by common consent there was a separation. The property was divided and Mr. Steinert went back to Milwaukee.

Meanwhile the other children, except the two youngest, had remained in Milwaukee. John worked at his trade of harness maker and saddler. Margaret, Cathrina, and Anna secured work in private families and were joined later by Christina. Mother took service with a Dr. Liening and had the care of the small children. In the summer of 1852, while driving with the Doctor and his two year old boy, the horses ran away, heading straight for the lake. They were stopped just as they were on the point of dashing in, but the shock was one from which mother suffered not only then but later.

In the fall of 1852 Julia came from Pittsburgh and visited John in Milwaukee and the rest of the family, who were now together in Lomira. There they attended the religious services which were held in the schoolhouse and in private houses by a Rev. Mr. Strassburger of the Evangelical Association. Anna and Julia here joined the Evangelical Association. Julia had previously attended the Evangelical Protestant Church at Smithfield and Sixth Avenue in Pittsburgh. Upon her return, however, she and Anna both united with the Evangelical Association, Anna having gone back with her to live in Pittsburgh.

Their first place of service was at the home of Joseph Dilworth, son of William Dilworth. The home was on Coal Hill, now Mt. Washington. There was no incline or street car at the time, but the steep hill did not interfere with the regular attendance of the girls upon their church down in the city. The Dilworths held mother in very high personal esteem, and kept in touch with her through later years. Mr. Dilworth used to say that if mother were to marry and by any chance lose her home, she should return and live with them. When in 1888 mother and father and Rob were in Pittsburgh upon a visit, Mrs. Joseph Dilworth and her two daughters called to see mother. When Edward took a position as instructor on the school ship Pennsylvania in 1904, the grandson of William Dilworth, Mr. John Dilworth,

insisted that his son Creighton, who was to go as a student, should be placed in Edward's special charge.

June 28, 1854, Julia was married to Herman Henry Niebaum, a pioneer in the business of draying and freight transferring in Pittsburgh before the Western Railroad entered the city. They made their home at what is now number 12 Scott Street, then a very good neighborhood. Later on they bought this lot and built a home upon its other end, 141 Elm Street.

Mother was at Aunt Julia's for a short period at the time that the first child, Lizzie, was born. Aside from this she was at Dilworth's, remaining there about three years. At the end of this time, in 1856, she went to Aunt Julia's to stay and to learn sewing. She also spent a short time at the home of Mr. F. D. Geist on Fifth Avenue and Elm Street, and later was again at Mr. Dilworth's. In the spring of 1860 she and her sister Julia made a visit to Lomira, stopping also at Sauk, Wisconsin, to visit the Ragatzs. With them were Aunt Julia Niebaum's three children, Lizzie, Will, and Annie, with a niece, Maggie Niebaum.

V. First Years of Married Life

November 8, 1860, Anna Steiner was married to Otto Rall, the ceremony being performed by Rev. John Bernhart at her sister's home at 12 Scott Street. Here father began the first of those business ventures in which he was so generally unfortunate, the fault lying sometimes in the nature of the business undertaken, sometimes in the character of the men whom he trusted too readily. He had saved some money while working at his trade, and now about the time of his marriage he formed a partnership with Mr. Charles Fester to engage in a grocery business at Liberty and Ferry Streets where the Wabash Passenger Station at present stands. In the rooms back of this store, he and mother started house-keeping. The business did not prosper as expected and he turned again to his trade as a harness maker. He was employed upon some government contracts and received what was then the very high wage of eighty dollars a month. This money he also put into the business, but to no avail. Finally he sold out to his partner and removed to Scott Street, directly across from Aunt Julia, where he worked at his trade.

Soon after this father and mother moved to Congress Street and then to Scott Street, back of John Niebaum's store. Here on Scott Street were born Julius Frederick on March 18, 1863, and Charles Rudolph on October 9, 1865. Fred was named after his father's father. Charles took his first name from his father and his second from Rudolph Rall, a cousin of father's then living in Pittsburgh. Fred's special playmate and protector was Will Niebaum, his somewhat older cousin. Father often took Cousin Will down town to see the sights, especially the Santa Claus at Christmas time. When later on the family moved out west, Will ran to the gate after they had left the house, and then came back to the house sobbing and declaring that everybody

had gone out of Pittsburgh and that he knew he was going to die. He was found at last in a cupboard into which he had crawled to cry it out by himself.

Christina Steiner had married Frederick Huelster, a minister of the Evangelical Association living in Wisconsin. Upon his urgent advice it was finally decided to remove to Wisconsin where all of mother's family aside from her sister Julia were living. A brief visit was made at Lomira, first at grandmother's and then with Uncle Frederick Huelster's father, who was then living on a farm near Lomira not far from "Huelster's Church." They then settled down in Fond du Lac, where father formed a partnership with a Mr. Fox in the tailoring business. Mr. Fox was to attend to the tailoring end and father do the soliciting. This was not very successful and was succeeded by a partnership in the grocery business with a Mr. Tarnutzer. During this time father and mother lived in a double house with Rev. William Horn, then pastor of the Evangelical Church in Fond du Lac, later on editor and bishop of the church. Mr. Horn had worked for Aunt Margaret Schaeffer on the farm before entering the ministry.

Mother's brothers and sisters were now all married and located. Julia, the oldest and first married, was in Pittsburgh. Margaret had married Charles Schaeffer, who died at the close of the Civil War from disease contracted during service in the war. John was living on his farm near Lomira. Katherine had married Rev. Oswald Ragatz, a minister in the Michigan Conference of the Evangelical Association. Jacob had also been in the war, having enlisted twice. At its close he married and settled down on the farm which he had bought next to John. Christina, married to Rev. Frederick Huelster, was also in Wisconsin as we have seen.

In the fall of 1867 father sold out and removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Here he bought a half interest in a notion and trimmings store from a Mr. Engel, with whom he remained in business for about two years. At Council Bluffs were born William Anton on May 5, 1868, and Harris Franklin on February 23, 1870. Here at the age of six Fred entered the public schools. The original building, tho

enlarged, is still standing. He had one handicap which the other children did not feel, for he knew no English when he entered. The first instruction was given to the children from the A B C charts on the wall. At the end of the term he bore proudly homeward a little card marked "Reward of Merit", attesting the fact that he was "the best little boy in school." No college diploma ever won by any of the children later on was more proudly displayed than this.

Our own experience as a family suggests something of the meaning of the public school system as a door of privilege and opportunity. In 1869 Fred entered as a little primary pupil. In 1905 Edward concluded his work at Columbia and Rob his course at the University of Pittsburgh. In these thirty-six years there was not a time when there were not from one to eight members of the family at school. For the twenty-three years from 1882, when Charles entered the University of Iowa, to 1905, with the exception of two years, from one to four members of the family were in college or university each year. Fred and Will took up the financial burdens earlier than the rest and were deprived of these privileges.

The other seven children spent a total of thirty-nine years in college and professional study, varying from two to ten years apiece, receiving together some sixteen academic degrees, three of them taking Phi Beta Kappa. Charles was well above the rank required for this, but was in the scientific course.

For some years father had been considering the question of the call to the ministry. His brother-in-law, Rev. Frederick Huelster, had urged this upon him, and other friends had suggested it before that. He, himself, was deeply devoted to the church and interested in its work. On the other hand, he had his wife and young children, now four in number. The ministry offered a very precarious support, and he was anxious first to make a success of business and secure a competence for his family. Further, he did not wish to have to ask for money as a preacher. In the winter of 1869-70, the call became more urgent in his own heart, and at last he made the decision. He knew the conditions, the country was sparsely settled, the work was

arduous, the support was meager. A formal vow of consecration found among his papers after his death indicates the spirit in which he gave himself to this new work.

On this day, the 14th of December, 1870, I enter into covenant with my faithful Father. May the grace of my Faithful Redeemer help me.

In the name of my God I commit myself and devote myself to him as his sole possession: my spirit, soul, body, talents, time, influence, possessions, my feelings, desires, my failings also and corruptions, everything that is now known to me and that the Spirit of God and his Word shall reveal to me, my love for my wife and my love for my family. May the dear Saviour thus receive me, cleanse, sanctify, consecrate me, and use me for the glory of his name. I for my part will accept my Christ as my all, and leave it to him to give me the full assurance of my sanctification. May he use me for the glory of his name and the spread of his cause.

OTTO RALL.

Early in 1870, father and his partner, Mr. Engel, sold out their business. The money from this sale, which had been placed in the safe, was taken at night by Mr. Engel, who left for parts unknown. All efforts to capture him were in vain. In the meantime father had been granted a license to preach by the Iowa Conference of the Evangelical Association. His pastor at this time, who signed the license to preach and the recommendation for admission to conference, was the Rev. L. Scheurer, who at this writing (1925) is still living at Cedar Falls, Ia. Mr. Scheurer, a young and unmarried minister, lived for some time in our home. Will and Frank were baptized by him. As showing the attitude of others, he tells of a Roman Catholic neighbor who declared very positively concerning father: "This man ought to preach; he ought not to be in business." Father was superintendent of the Sunday School at this time.

VI. First Years in the Ministry

His first assignment was Magnolia, Iowa, a small town or settlement in western Iowa not very far from Council Bluffs where we went in the spring of 1870. Most of the people were poor and ignorant. Cleanliness with many was an unknown virtue, and had to be preached as well as godliness. We remained here but one year, moving twice in that time in connection with the erection of a parsonage built under father's supervision.

Bishop Dubs presided at the next conference session in the spring of 1871. Nebraska was included in the Iowa Conference at this time, and the bishop read off the name of Mr. Youngblood for West Point in that state. It was a desolate region and Mr. and Mrs. Youngblood broke down and cried when they heard the assignment. So the bishop changed the appointment and in his place sent father with his wife and four little children. Here we lived 1871-1873. The children, of course, troubled themselves little about this. They remained up late waiting for father's return and rejoiced in the rare treat of some oranges which he had brought back. So they journeyed farther westward, crossing the Missouri River by ferry at Blair, and finding the river so high and the banks so muddy that a landing was made only with great difficulty.

West Point, our new home, was a little frontier town on the Chicago and Northwestern Railway some fifty miles northwest of Omaha. Here were typical pioneer conditions in the great prairie lands. West Point was an outpost as its name was meant to suggest. The railway extended but ten miles beyond it, but here and there all over this rich farming country the settlers had located. Scattered among them were the German families, and it was father's duty to look these up and minister to them. It was a great parish, including some six or seven counties. In form it was a

huge triangle. One side, from Fremont to Norfolk, was 81 miles; a second, from Fremont to Grand Island, measured 108 miles.

Though father himself was new at the work, he had a junior preacher to assist him, the Rev. J. P. Pflaum. Their task was arduous enough. The settlers were sparse. One could drive sometimes for twenty miles without seeing a house. Over the snow in winter and the sea of prairie grass in summer, they had to make their way. It was beautiful when the summer brought the bright prairie blossoms, and in the fall the flocks of prairie chickens and wild ducks and geese gave an added interest, though father was no sportsman and never carried a gun. But there was hardship and peril a plenty as well. The winter brought snow and bitter cold and blizzards, the latter in this sparsely settled country being a very dangerous matter for the traveler. Fur cap, buffalo coat, buffalo robes, and heavy calfskin shoes lined with lamb, joined to the thickest of woolen socks, were not enough to fend off the biting winds. Sometimes father came home with cheeks covered with ice so that the skin would peel off from the frost bite. His sled was a home-made affair, with two planks for runners.

In the summer the peril was from prairie fires. In the fall especially father never traveled without matches. In case of danger it was necessary to start a counter fire, burning off a piece of ground large enough so that it might furnish safety while the great fire swept by on either side. The town of West Point itself had a strip of plowed land about it to furnish protection from the same danger.

Over this large territory father traveled, visiting from house to house, enrolling the people in classes, and establishing preaching places in private home or school house. The soil was fertile but the people were poor. Fuel and provisions were brought in at great expense, while corn, the chief crop, commanded a very low price. The people lived for the most part in dugouts, a kind of combination cave and sod hut rising not very far above the ground. In time of deep snow, indeed, one might have driven over them except for the projecting stovepipe. The sod house and the skyscraper are America's two original contributions in the

architectural field. The scarcity of fuel and the low price of corn sometimes caused the settlers to use corn in the ear the winter through as a fuel. It made a most intense heat, but not of long duration. Many families had to use this same corn as their main diet, parching and grinding it and then taking it with sorghum and milk. This corn was our own fuel one winter. That same winter we had to use parched barley in place of coffee and unsalted lard for butter. Then, as was often done later on, we secured meat for the winter at slight expense by buying a small pig or two in the summer, and fattening the same for winter killing. From the pig came lard and hams and ribs and sausage and salt pork and head cheese and other products.

Fortunately for the settlers the soil was fertile, and the first crops were usually bounteous. The freshly turned sod made a specially good soil for melons. One member of the church, who lived a few miles out of West Point, is particularly remembered in this connection. Every day during the season he would bring in a wagon load of melons from his enormous crop. Regularly he would drive by the parsonage, open the door, and roll in a few sample cantaloupes and watermelons.

There was no especial danger from Indians at this time. Once during the first summer, a band of Indians passed through the town. They moved in single file, with ponies, squaws and papooses. Each pony bore a load upon his back, while two poles, dragging behind and fastened one on either side, were laden with other stuff and with the papooses. Sometimes they came in from the hunt, and the buffalo robe which was so long in father's possession was gotten directly from them. Once also father met a tribe in war array of paint and feathers, but they were on the war path against another tribe. During this time there was peace with the whites, though trouble occurred later on.

In West Point itself the Evangelical Association had a neat and new brick church, located next to the court house which was then in process of erection, the town being the county seat. The church was one of the best in the town and is still standing. A parsonage was being built and the family moved into it in the fall. As the town did not have

adequate school accommodations, the church was used for the time as a school room. Here Fred and Charles attended. Misses Matthews and Bancroft were the two teachers, and were above the average in competency. They were greatly loved by the boys, and in return held these in high regard. Thirty years later, on the occasion of a convention of the Young People's Alliance of the Evangelical Association held in Buffalo, Miss Bancroft sent greetings through some West Point delegates to any of the Ralls that might be present, and Charles was there to receive them. Charles still treasures a cup which he received as a school prize from these teachers.

There were four little folk in the home when the family moved to West Point, and they had their share of good times, especially the two older boys. Sometimes they played on the grass covered hill back of the house, going on all fours, making believe they were cattle, and eating the sheep sorrel (sheep sour we called it). Once the boys supplied the family with fish at a time when we had a number of preachers as guests. It happened that a spring freshet had backed up the waters of the creek, or river, and in receding had left a large number of bullheads in a shallow pond, which the boys easily caught by hand. One of their sports was the product of Fred's ingenuity. The open end of a tin can was plugged tightly shut. Through a small hole punched in the side the can was filled with water, and then this hole in turn was plugged, though more lightly. The can of water was then heated over a small furnace contrived out of bricks, and the sport was to see the plug fly into the air when the steam that was generated gave sufficient pressure.

On February 19, 1872, Anna was born, and the boys were overjoyed at having a sister. Fred declared that she should never have to walk when she was large enough to go to school, as he would carry her. She was baptized by Bishop Esher.

Despite meager accommodations, guests were always welcome, particularly the preachers. Among these were Messrs. Henn, Hahn, and Pfund, the first named being the presiding elder. The children enjoyed these visits, though it meant

that they had to give up their beds and sleep in a row on the sitting-room floor. As junior preacher, it was natural that Mr. Pflaum should visit us a great deal. As transpired later, it was more than business that brought him, for not long after this we lost Cousin Mathilda, who had been with us all this time, and he gained a wife. What we had to offer was gladly shared, and these preachers were used to the same life.

These two years brought varied and valuable experiences to father. Father was no singer, and as the people knew neither words nor tunes, he had to limit himself to the hymns that would fit the one or two tunes that he could carry. The local roughs occasionally had their sport with him. Once while he was holding revival meetings in the country, some of them took his buggy apart and carried the parts to the tops of stables and hay stacks near by. At another time, while on a trip far from home, he came to a fork in the road where he did not know which way to turn. Driving on at a venture, he found out at length that he had taken the wrong branch. The next morning he retraced his journey and took the right road, but when he came to the point where he would have spent the previous night had he not gone astray, he found that the place had been swept clean by a cyclone. To him the occurrence always seemed an intervention of Providence.

VII. Blairstown and Ackley

The trip to Blairstown, our home from 1873 to 1876, in the spring of 1873 with the wife and five little children was long and arduous. Upon arrival they were entertained for some weeks by various members of the congregation, as the high spring waters of the Missouri delayed the arrival of the household goods. For six months the family lived in a house just back of the Blairstown Academy. Then we removed to the newly completed parsonage which was located some seven miles north of the town at a country appointment called New Germany, half way between Blairstown and Vinton. Two other appointments helped to form this circuit: Stringtown, lying between Blairstown and New Germany, and Eden.

Conditions here were much easier for father. The country was older and well settled, the farmers better off, and the church work better established. We had plenty of neighbors near at hand. We lived at a cross roads, with parsonage and church on two of the corners, the school house on a third, and the fourth occupied by a farm house belonging to Rev. A. Hauser. Among our other neighbors were the Leonards, Gluntzs, Woltersdorfs, Biehres, Gallmanns, and John Hauser. Our house was on a one acre lot, with barn, sheds and a large garden. Here we kept a horse, cow, pigs for winter killing, chickens and guinea fowls. Sometimes we had a servant girl, oftener not. Fred was chief assistant in the house. There were few things that he could not do, and as he grew older mother declared that no servant girl ever gave her better help. He could bake as well as clean, and run the sewing maching or repair it when it was out of order. Charles was then, as later, chief assistant out of doors, taking charge of stock and garden. Mother had not forgotten old country ways and made butter, Schmierkaese, Handkaese and soap.

During the summer the boys would help on the neighboring farms, working at such tasks as carrying water for the hands in harvest time. Harvest time was a busy season. The farmers had to have special "hands" and women and children all joined in the work. The threshing season followed. Steam threshers were not yet known. Besides the gang that went with the thresher and its owner, neighboring farmers joined together to help each other, each man usually bringing a team. Some brought the grain from the stacks, or from the field if they threshed from the shock. Others had to haul away the grain. The women were busy in the house. The best was not too good for these men, who worked and worked hard. There was great cooking and baking before they came, and there was not a great deal left when they departed. The proverbial phrase for the man with the big appetite was that he ate like a thresher. Corn husking was an after-harvest activity, which extended into the winter.

During the summer the boys would herd the neighboring farmers' cows in the open fields, or prairie, and later on in the stubble fields, all for the privilege of letting our cow join the herd. Sometimes the cows would break away and get to the grain stacks. At other times they would break into a corn field and be lost among the high stalks. On one such occasion Fred and Charlie knelt down and prayed, and found the cows immediately upon arising. There were pleasant experiences, too, as when the farmer's wife would hand the hungry youngsters great slices of bread spread thick with honey.

The district school was a very poor one. The teachers were usually incompetent alike as to knowledge, ability to teach, and ability to govern. The boys would climb on top of the school house during recess, and laugh at the teacher when she rang the bell for the pupils to come in. It was great sport when the snow had drifted over the fences and hardened, to follow along their line at noon until too far away to hear the bell. Then the boys that came in late had to stand before the school upon one foot, holding a box of crayon at arm's length in one hand and a book in the other. It was not hard however to change feet when the teacher's

back was turned. Another diversion was to carry little green snakes to school in their pockets, and once, when Cousin Mathilda Pflaum was visiting the teacher, the boys brought to the latter a garter snake nicely wrapped in paper as a birthday present. What the ladies did and said does not need description. At this little school Frank made his debut as a public speaker at the age of six. It was "Last Day," when there were always "Last Day Exercises" with many visitors present. The first half of the speech went all right:

"I never spoke before today.
The smallest boy am I."

But the situation was too much for him and the incident closed abruptly with a good cry in mother's lap. Mrs. Gluntz, a neighbor, wanted to adopt Frank. She had no children and thought we had too many for a preacher's purse.

Here at Blairstown father made his first attempt at riding horseback, but it made him so lame that he gave it up and never tried it again. Here he suffered from a thirteen weeks' siege of typhoid fever. An extended and extensive siege of measles formed another experience. Mr. J. H. Yaggy, a nearby farmer, had decided to enter the ministry, and was staying at our house with his family for a few days before conference. The measles broke out among the smaller children and their stay was a long one. Sarah and Louis Yaggy were about the age of Fred and Charles, and the latter did not object to the continuance of good company.

The boys often had wrestling matches together, Fred and Frank against Charles and Will, catch as catch can. Honors remained about even! Frank nearly brought disaster once. He thought a fire would be interesting, and started the blaze by setting fire to some hay back of the buggy shed. It was fortunately discovered in time. Charlie had a similar experience in a field, the spreading blaze being stopped only by the aid of farm hands who were husking corn near by.

George Washington was born here on January 23, 1874, and Edward Everett on February 11, 1876. During this time father and mother went to Wisconsin upon a visit,

taking with them Will, Frank, Anna and George, who was then the baby. They visited Uncle Frederick Huelster at Racine and later Grandmother Steiner and Uncle John Steiner at Lomira. Fred and Charles remained at home and kept house, the former being just past eleven and the latter just nine. They depended upon a neighbor for their bread, but Fred did the rest of the cooking and even made a sponge cake for Charlie's birthday. One night a pedlar applied for lodging. They took him in, but locked the door leading upstairs where he slept while they remained down below with a neighbor's boy for company. At another time they were awakened about two or three in the morning and found it was the sheriff rapping at the door. He was in pursuit of a fugitive from justice and wanted to know whether they had taken any one in for the night.

We removed to Ackley (1876-1879) in Hardin County in the spring of 1876. Father and Charles drove the distance in the buggy, stopping over night on the way and reaching Ackley the next evening. The family stopped for supper with Rev. Mr. Lageschulte. Charles was sent to the Martins for the night. The little country youngster of eleven was rather awed by the large brick house, but was kindly received by Mrs. Martin who sent him to bed with her sons Frank and Julius. These had great sport pinching the boy while making believe that they were asleep. When the family goods arrived, Fred made himself a hero in the eyes of the younger boys by sleeping the first night alone in the parsonage.

At Ackley father had a very good congregation, with a second preaching point five miles in the country. For the first time the children could attend a graded school, though in fact we did not get to really good schools until we came to Hampton. Fred attended the high school but was not able to complete the same, as he began working in a store in order to help out the family income. Fred and Charles were in the same Sunday School class with Herman and John Von Lackum, their teacher being Father Eggert, a wealthy retired farmer and an influential member. The Sunday School superintendent was Mr. Meyer, who thirty years later still held this position.

The congregation having bought a new parsonage across from the church, we removed thither. That made eight times in seven years of the ministry that we had changed our residence. In 27 years of father's ministry we occupied 23 different houses in thirteen different communities. This was itinerating in good earnest. In the new parsonage Carolyn Louise was born on All Fools' Day, April 1, 1878. As we could not agree upon a name, each member wrote his choice upon a slip of paper, the baby drawing two of these from a hat. Charles insists that the two names were his pick, Carolyn chosen because of Carrie Long, our servant girl and a great favorite with the children, Louise because of Louise Martin who was his ideal in other ways.

John H. Niebaum of Pittsburgh, a second cousin, visited us here. There came at this time a keg of apple butter from Pittsburgh and there went back to the folks there a firkin of butter. He was welcome company and full of fun, and the children named him "Humbug Niebaum." During this time mother's health became much worse.

VIII. Hampton and Sumner

We removed to Hampton (1879-1882) in the spring of 1879, leaving behind us Fred who was working in the post office. Charles, Will, and Frank drove across with the horse and buggy, stopping over night on the way. To help out the tedium on the road, one of the boys would get out and fasten a long rope about his waist with the other end tied to the buggy. Then the others would whip up the horse and chase down the hill on the run. No casualties!

There was no church of the Evangelical Association at Hampton. There were six preaching places in father's circuit located as follows: Messelheiser's, about four miles north; Zager's about eight miles west; Sheffield, about ten miles north; West Fork, about twelve miles northwest; Eden, about fourteen miles southeast near Ackley; and one other place about eighteen miles distant. He alternated, preaching at three of these places on one Sunday, and three the next. Often this involved his being away from Saturday to Monday, and sometimes, with pastoral visits to be made, even longer.

In the winter time these long rides involved considerable hardship. Two horses were necessary. Once in crossing a bridge with a long and high approach, the horses became frightened at the clothes lying on the bridge and belonging to some men who were bathing in the river. They started to back and there was no railing to prevent the buggy from running off at the side; but the men heard father's call, assured themselves that no women were present, and came up and laid hold of the horses' heads.

The nearest escape occurred one Sunday morning. There had been rainy weather and deep mud, after which the roads froze hard as a rock and were left with deep ruts and very rough surface. Father had just driven past Messelheiser's when the front axle broke. The horses

started to run and father was pitched headlong from his seat, striking the frozen road upon his forehead. The horses were soon caught and little harm was done to the buggy, but father was found lying like one dead. Fortunately it was only an incomplete fracture of the skull, though the wound left a scar which showed all his life.

Charlie or Frank often accompanied father on these trips. There was still a good deal of prairie land in some parts of the country. During one season one family at the West Fork killed four or five hundred wild ducks, the men simply taking their guns with them when they went to plough the fields. We had a share of this game and it was very welcome. Strictest economy was necessary with our large household. Food prices fortunately were not high, and the cheapest cuts of meat served us. A ten cent "soup bone" made a generous meal for the family and served us oftener than anything else. Fruit was rather scarce. Once a large supply of wild plums was secured, and these were put up for the winter in the form of gallons of plum butter. Once a week mother baked, and such a stack of bread as was necessary! Coffee cake for breakfast was as certain as the sun, and seven large coffee cakes were the minimum for the weekly baking.

The parsonage at Hampton was a long one story structure, and it taxed even mother's skill to stow us all away. Besides the summer kitchen, there were a dining room and kitchen in one, parlor and study in one, two tiny bed rooms and a larger bed room for father and mother. There were seven children at home when we came to Hampton, and Robert Otto arrived during our stay there (February 9, 1881). In addition Fred came home for an occasional visit and there were guests sometimes as well! A specially constructed double decker bed placed in the corner of mother's room for the younger children helped to solve the problem. This could take one or even two children on each story, while Frank occupied a couch in the parlor. Surplus furniture was stored in the hay loft.

It meant hard work for mother. We children had no cares and felt no deprivation. Of course we had our regular tasks as always. Will was chief assistant in the house.

Outside there were the horses, the cow, the chickens, one or two pigs, and the garden to care for. Charles was chief manager here and in addition had the care of Professor Pinkham's two Texas ponies and his cow and chickens.

But there was plenty of fun too. Sometimes we played at the little creek close by, damming the stream and catching craw fish or trying to drown out gophers. The last couple of years it was Mott's Creek that attracted us. There were actual fish to be caught there, bull heads and once at least a good bass which was carried home with great pride. This was Will's feat, for he was the fisherman of the crowd. On the way home a passing driver offered a quarter for the fish. It was not for sale, tho a quarter looked a good deal bigger than a dollar would now. There were great walnut trees there too, and some butter nuts. Nor did we disdain the green and sour wild crabs. After the frost had yellowed them and mellowed them, we found them quite palatable, and the cherry blossoms of old Japan can scarcely be more beautiful than some of those wild crab trees were when the gnarled branches and sharp twigs were all covered with that wonderful mass of rose colored bloom.

As there was no Evangelical church at Hampton, the children attended an English church and Sunday School for the first time, with the consequence that the German slipped rapidly away. For the most part we went to the Methodist Church where Mr. Cressey was pastor. Among our neighbors were Dr. Ross, the dentist, and his family, Ross Dillon and his wife Liberty, Mr. Janes and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Stalker and adopted daughter Nellie, the McCrillis family, and such boy companions as Charlie Sholes and Quigley Watt. Tom and George Robinson and Will King were among our other friends. Tom later became the Honorable T. J. B. Robinson with some prominence in Iowa political life, while Will King entered the Congregational ministry.

Cousin Otto Muehleisen of Munich visited us here. For a while he worked on a farm, later in a Milwaukee brewery, he himself being a master brewer by trade. In a year or two he returned to Germany. Father had given up smoking some years before for the sake of his boys, but Cousin Otto

had brought some German cigars with him and induced father to try one. After repeated attempts to keep it burning he laid it aside. The cigar then disappeared, the boys finishing it behind the barn. Cousin Lizzie Niebaum of Pittsburgh and Julia Steiner of Lomira also visited us, the latter accompanying us when we moved to Sumner.

Lady and Dick were two valued members of the family. Lady was an intelligent and gentle little mare. We bought her in Hampton and kept her until after our removal to Cedar Falls. She was a fine saddle horse, with the easiest of gaits. With Charles or Frank on her back, she would start off at a gallop, while the younger children slapped and kicked in vain to move her from a walk. Dicky was just a "yaller dog", but to us the very smartest dog in town. He had his regular rounds among the neighbors, from whom he begged choice tid-bits. He grew so fat that he would sometimes roll over when he ran too fast. But he could be quick enough too. How proud we were that day when the old pig sty was torn down, and Dick killed his dozen or fifteen rats, not allowing a single one to escape. We laid them as trophies all in a row before we buried them.

The schools at Hampton were in charge of Mr. Ossian H. Brainerd, a young man who had graduated not long before from the University of Iowa, his present residence being at Iowa City. He had graded the schools and organized the high school, and the three years at Hampton were of great value to us. Charles finished the high school course there, remaining a few weeks to complete his course and earning his board by working for Mr. William Beed. Frank was nine when we came to Hampton but very small for his age, and so was sent to the primary room. The teacher promptly sent him on to another grade and in a couple of weeks he was moved again. Before the close of the three years he was in the high school. Mr. Brainerd had organized the high school into a literary society with student officers in charge and with monthly meetings and exercises. Frank was chosen vice-president and told one day that he would have to preside. He remembers little of that day except that his feet and his hands seemed considerably in the way, that he did not dare to play with the boys at recess, and that

he wondered whether he could find his voice to make the announcement of the numbers on the program. He fears now that it was all a put up job for the sake of seeing a very small boy with very prominent ears sit up on that platform.

An important step at this time was the decision that Charlie should go to college. A small German legacy had just come to father, payable in annual installments, and this helped solve the financial problem. Mother felt that no sacrifice was too great for the children and for their education, and declared that we would make it go in some way. Mr. Brainerd urged the step. Father appreciated the importance of the training which he himself had missed, but was more cautious. However it was decided upon and Mr. Brainerd's influence led to the choice of Iowa City. As the event proved, this choice settled the matter for Frank, Edward and Carolyn as well. Charlie started for school in the fall of 1882, earning his room and board the first year by serving as janitor of a church. Later he acted as steward for a boarding club, making the purchases and keeping the accounts.

Our home at Sumner (1882-1883) was five miles out in the country, and for this reason was very unsatisfactory. There were five children at home of school age, with nothing but a common country school to attend, located just a mile from the house. For Will and Frank, who had entered the high school at Hampton, it meant practically the loss of a year. So far as support was concerned, father fared here as well as anywhere. In addition to the church where we lived, father preached in Sumner, at Edel and Diedel, and at one or two other country places. There had been some plan of the parsonage being moved to Sumner, but this was not done and for that reason we remained but a year at this place.

Our nearest neighbors were the Langs. Two of the boys of this family, Will and Ed, our companions at that time, are now in the ministry of the Evangelical Church. Charlie worked upon the farm during the summer before going to Iowa City. George and Ed used to herd cattle with the Lang boys. They would take with them for lunch tin buckets full of apples of varying degrees of ripeness, which were always cleaned up with no casualties reported after-

wards. Another healthful performance was to see who could drink the most dippers of milk within a given time. A small stream near by gave us a little fishing. A fall excursion with wagon and two horses enabled us to lay in a good supply of hazel nuts. In the summer Will and Frank were given a little pig by Mr. Lang, who thought that the animal would not live. The boys made a movable pen and took such good care of "the runt" that it became a great big porker, serving our usual winter need.

At Sumner we had our last contact with the unbroken prairies of the West, of which Nebraska had given us the best illustration in those first years of father's ministry. In the earliest days father had traveled them when they were so sparsely settled that he would find himself often with not a house in sight. The roads were tracks that struck across the country at pleasure—no section lines, or barbed wire fences, or hedges to impede. "And when they were good, they were very, very good; and when they were bad they were horrid." Iowa's preeminence in bad roads in bad weather is not a matter of yesterday. But the prairies themselves were wonderful and had a charm that the mountains may have for the Swiss or the sea shore for one brought up on the coast. There was an appeal in the infinite expanse like that of the sea, but there was a gentle roll that redeemed it from any monotony of flatness. The prairie flowers form a story by themselves, the buttercups and violets, the little blue and white grass flowers, the sweet williams of varied hue, the richly colored yellow puccoon, the prairie lilies, or tiger lilies, as we called them, growing usually one on a stalk, the sheep sorrel which we loved to eat (a salad whose value for us we did not know), the shooting star, the lady slipper (an orchid that we appreciated), and all the rest. There was the gum weed, whose stalks we used to break off so that we might later gather for chewing gum the hardened juice that had exuded.

The prairies were disappearing rapidly even in those early days. No wonder. Think of all that wonderful land waiting for the settler to come and exploit the fertility that had been long centuries, millennia, in preparation! And think how easy the conquest was as compared with stony New

England or the timber lands to the east. Yet there was need for hard work, and there was loneliness, and returns were very meager because the very fertility of the soil and the sudden cultivation of such large areas brought great harvests which kept prices low. That was why those early farmers had to burn corn for fuel. It is fortunate that of late years there have arisen those who could tell the story of the prairies and of this pioneer epoch that had a life that was all its own. Hamlin Garland, an Iowa boy, may be put among the first of these. Edward Eggleston, with his *Hoosier Schoolmaster* and other fine tales of the older days, is not a case in point for Indiana was quite different from the prairies of Iowa. Frank recalls, while at Iowa City, that one of his teachers referred enthusiastically to a young man who had been a pupil of hers a few years before in an Iowa "academy", and who was going to make his mark in writing. That was Hamlin Garland, and his "*Son of the Middle Border*", "*Daughter of the Middle Border*", and some of his stories are worth reading here. Willa Cather's "*My Antonia*" has its setting in Nebraska, which was her state. In literary ability and in its picture of the prairies and of pioneer life, it is better than Hamlin Garland. Two other notable writers take us to Iowa scenes. "*The Able McLaughlins*," by Margaret Wilson, has Tama County for its scene it is said, though not the part near Dysart where we lived. Of special interest are the books by Herbert Quick, another Iowan. His boyhood home was near Steamboat Rock in the direction of Waterloo. In his autobiography, "*One Man's Life*", he gives intimate and first hand accounts of the life of the Iowa prairies in the seventies and eighties. He has presented this material in fiction form in his Iowa trilogy: "*Van der Mark's Folly*", "*The Hawkeye*", and "*The Invisible Woman*", the last of which especially contains interesting material on Iowa's earlier political life.

IX. Cedar Falls, Dysart, and Van Horne

We removed to Cedar Falls (1883-1886) in the spring of 1883, Will and Frank driving across country with the horse, stopping at Waverly over night. Our first home was at 909 Franklin Street. But the house was small and inconvenient and the congregation finally bought from Rev. H. Brauer the house across from the church at Ninth and Clay Streets, to which we removed in the fall.

This was the most pleasant appointment that father had had, and our most pleasant memories are associated with these years. The church at Cedar Falls was prosperous. At Fairfield, five and a half miles west, was another good congregation, with a smaller congregation at Black Hawk, five or six miles south. Cedar Falls had a fine group of young people and father was especially well liked by these, organizing them into a successful young people's society with regular meetings for literary exercises in German and English. The schools were the best that we had known and we profited by them. There were many pleasant neighbors and friends outside the congregation. Ed and George had as their special chums the Hull boys, Rube and Lute, whose father was a professor in the State Teacher's College, or State Normal School as we knew it then. Frank finished the high school here, graduating in 1886. A debate on Home Rule for Ireland gave him his subject for the graduating exercises, his opponent being Clarence Morley, acquaintance with him being later renewed in Colorado, of which state he was elected Governor in 1924. Miss E. M. Ladd, the principal, and her assistant, Miss Carrie Flint, are remembered with special gratitude. Will had to drop out in the middle of his course to aid in the family expenses.

A large part of the good times for the boys at Cedar Falls was connected with the beautiful Cedar River. Here we went swimming, usually in the bayou or the "cut-off."

In the fall we went nutting, or gathered wild grapes up the river. In the summer there was always boating and picnicking, and winter brought its skating. Two or three of the oldest usually went with father to the camp-meeting each summer, mother and the younger children staying at home. In 1883 we joined in this with the Nuhn family (Mrs. Nuhn, Will, and Emma) and the Kallenbachs. For such meetings men went out to a grove or piece of woods, preferably near a stream. There were no buildings or special conveniences. Food was brought along, tents set up, a rude stand built for the speakers, and benches made of planks served as seats. The meeting was held after harvesting and loads of fresh straw were used to fill bed ticks and scatter among the benches, for all knelt in prayer.

In the summer of 1883 Charles worked in the paper mill where a course wrapping paper was made from the oat straw brought in from the country round about. Anna, eleven years of age, kept house alone for a while that summer while father, mother, Carrie and Rob drove to New Germany, now Van Horne, to visit the Pflaums. In the summer of 1885 father and mother with Carrie and Rob visited the many relatives in Lomira, Wisconsin. Anna, then thirteen, kept house, assisted for a while by Sarah Kallenbach. Five dollars had been left them for table expenses to last during these weeks of absence. Will, then working in the shoe store, with the younger children decided that they would not use this money. So they sold green peas and tomatoes from the garden to cover expenses. But "the cupboard was bare" for sure when the folks got home. During this summer Frank worked on the farm for Mr. Franz Tostlebe.

On November 8, 1885, was the twenty-fifth anniversary of father's and mother's wedding. Friends of the Cedar Falls church arranged a celebration as a surprise. All the family was present except Charles, who was at Iowa City. Rev. E. J. Schultz of Waterloo was the spokesman, bearing the good wishes of the people. Many gifts in silver were brought. During this winter Carolyn was ill with scarlet fever. Fred had just given up his work in the post office at Iowa Falls and was home at the time, so he served as

nurse and was quarantined with Carolyn during the period of her illness.

At Blairstown, Ackley, Hampton and Cedar Falls, father remained in every case the limit of three years allowed by the rule of the church. Dysart, our next home (1886-1888), was the center of a farming country that contained a great many Germans. The congregation here was very large and filled the church, being composed both of farmers and those living in the town. In addition there were two country appointments supplied on alternate Sunday afternoons, Mosebach's and Big Grove. The town itself was much smaller than Cedar Falls and not nearly so attractive from any point of view.

Charles completed his course at the University of Iowa in 1886 with the degree of Civil Engineer. He took a position as assistant in the high school at Dysart but left in March to accept a place as engineer with E. A. Spaulding, a bridge contractor at Dubuque, Iowa. Frank stayed out of school for a year, working for a while in a grocery store and teaching his first term in the spring in a district school northeast of the town over in Benton County. In the fall of 1887 he entered the State University. Louis Minkel, a next door neighbor, was the special chum of George and Ed. Debating was a favorite diversion and almost any subject sufficed, such as the question whether thirteen constituted a beggar's dozen or a baker's dozen.

Father's team of young horses at Dysart, Cap and Pet, are especially remembered. Charles broke them. During the process they ran away once, and that seemed enough to establish a bad habit. After that it was necessary to have some one stand at their heads while they were being harnessed. Once they broke away from Ed, and a bump on the back of his head still marks the place where one of the horses struck him with the hoof. At another time they ran away with Frank just as he was climbing into the buggy and before he could fairly grasp the reins. As they swung out on the road with increasing speed, Frank went out at the turn of the corner and lighted squarely on his head. He had on a new derby hat, his first derby, and this was its first and last appearance. But his head was unhurt.

After two years at Dysart we removed to Van Horne, (1888-1889) the trip being made by wagon, the goods being carried by the Dysart folk, including such good friends as Charles Minkel and Bart Wiener. Charles was home at the time, and as neither father nor mother were very well, the principal labor of moving fell to him and Anna. Owing to changes in the firm, Charles had lost his place in Dubuque and had great difficulty in finding employment in his profession. He spent the winter in Dodge County, Wisconsin, teaching in Danville and visiting relatives in Lomira, and finally went to Pittsburgh in April, 1889. The fall before father and mother visited Pittsburgh, taking Rob, who was the baby, with them. It was the first visit since they had left some twenty-two years before, and they enjoyed greatly meeting the old friends of earlier days.

Van Horne was not an attractive place and we remained but one year. It was a little place of but three or four hundred population, and the schools were poor. The children began the practice here of reading aloud in the home circle, and Huckleberry Finn and other books were finished in this way. In the spring almost the whole family was taken ill with a kind of fever, possibly with influenza. Charles was at home and was nurse for them all, in the end becoming ill himself.

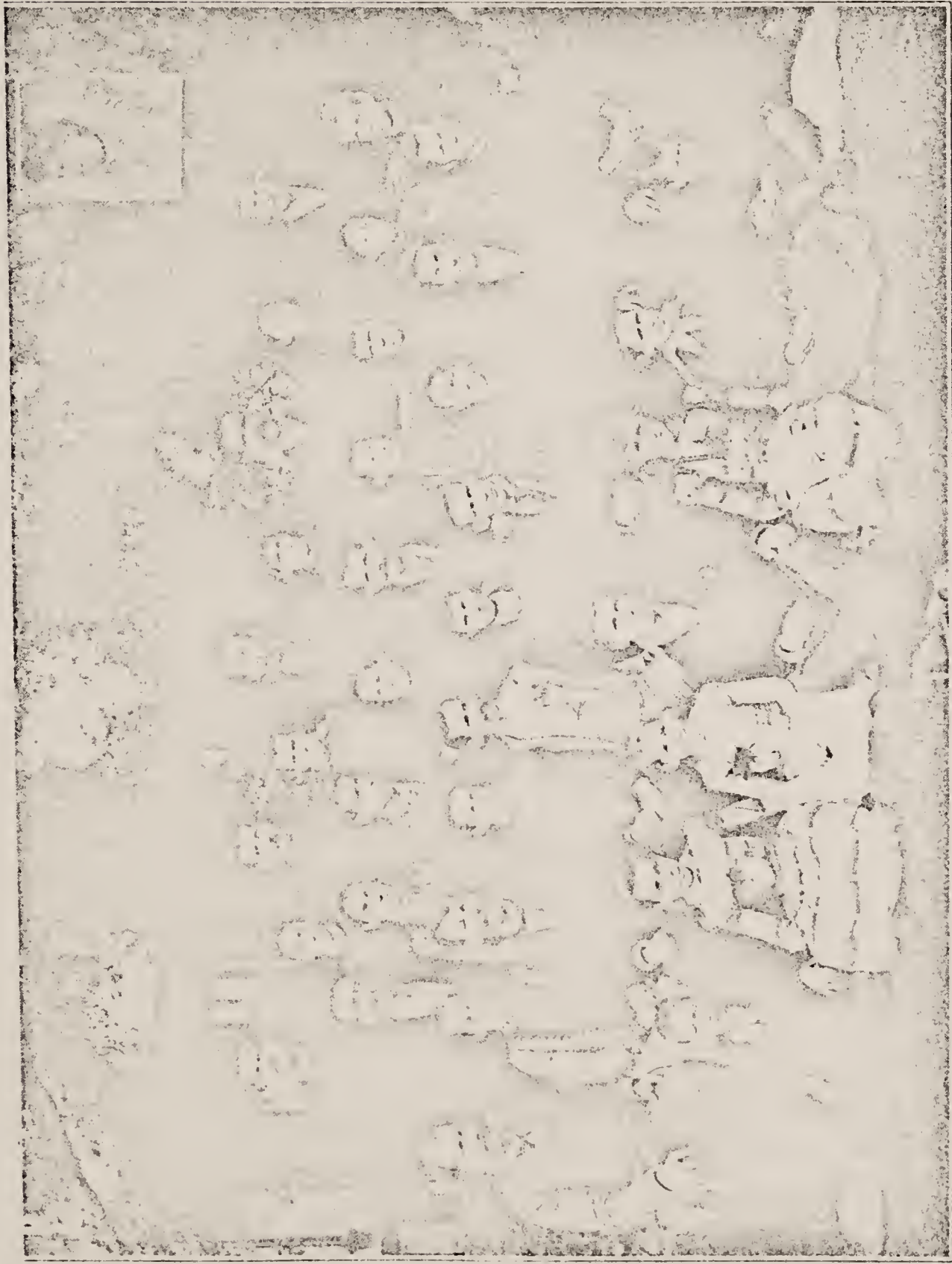
Up until 1887 Fred had been in the post office in Iowa Falls. In that year he had taken a position with the United States Express Company in Cedar Rapids. Will was in Cedar Falls. He had gone there in 1885 after a year's work in Iowa Falls. About the close of this year at Van Horne Will became a partner in the shoe store where he was working at Cedar Falls. He and Will Nuhn made us a visit at this time, riding across country from Vinton on their old style high wheels.

X. Dubuque, Cedar Falls and Des Moines

So far as church work was concerned, Dubuque (1889-1892) was a more limited field than father had had for many years. But tho the congregation was not large, the work was congenial. There were some very nice young people, of whom we remember in particular the Plapps and Heischs. Father organized them into a circle for literary and social meetings, and he was always a welcome member at any social gathering or picnic trip on the river.

The living conditions were far from pleasant. There was no parsonage. With a family of seven, there were provided only four rooms, and these were located in the basement, or rather the first story of the church, with an extra sleeping room partitioned off from the prayer meeting room of the church. So father had the task of again raising money and building a parsonage, into which we moved after a little more than two years. But these inconveniences could easily be endured because of the better school facilities. In 1891 Anna and George completed the two years, or German, course in the high school. George took a half year of extra work after this. He won a gold class ring for having the highest average in his studies, and was salutatorian of his class. Ed finished the same course in 1892, remaining with the Plapps for this purpose after the removal of the family. The special German course was a peculiarity of this high school, and due to the large number of Germans in the city.

George and Ed were the older boys at home in Dubuque. They earned a little money by serving as janitors of the church. With Sunday School at nine, that meant early rising in winter, but the boys reduced the hardship to a minimum. The furnace was completely prepared the night before, the alarm set for 3:30 or 4:00, and a half hour after that the hard coal was in and burning and the boys in bed again until a more seasonable hour. In the summer the



GRANDCHILDREN OF GRANDMOTHER STEINER

Reading from left to right. First Row: Robert O. Rall, Elizabeth Huelster, Luella Huelster, Fred Huelster, Adda Huelster, Esther Steiner, George Steiner.
 Second Row: Will Niebaum, Sarah Steiner, J. F. Rall, Emma Steiner, Sam Ragatz, Christina Ragatz, H. F. Rall, Amelia Steiner, Edward Steiner, Lillian Steiner.
 Third Row: Chas. R. Rall, Laura Niebaum, W. A. Rall, Clara Huelster, Harry Niebaum, Anna Rall, Henry Steiner, Laura Steiner, Arthur Huelster.
 Fourth Row: Otto Steiner, Julia Steiner, Jacob Steiner, Lizzie Niebaum, Will Steiner, Julia Schaeffer, John Steiner, Lizzie Steiner and Fred Steiner. 1890.

boys picked red raspberries at Hedrick's, about five miles out of town. The pay was a cent and a half a quart, but as the boys came early and stayed through the season, they received board and lodging too. Ed made the record of 72 quarts in one day.

Frank had spent the summer before our coming to Dubuque as a book agent, working with a number of Iowa University boys, making Perry his headquarters, and selling "Our Home." It was not a large financial success, but though he stuck the summer out, he declared that, money or no money, he would not undertake it again. The next summer, 1889, as he could get nothing better, he worked at a lathe in an iron pump factory in Dubuque for four and a half dollars a week. He had gotten credit for a year in German at Iowa City and had taken extra work each year. So, without planning it, he found himself ranked as senior at the close of the second year. He then decided to stay out for a year and taught in the high school at Nashua, 1889-1890, graduating with his original class in 1891 as valedictorian of the class. A few years later, when a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa was established at the University, Frank was one of the few from the older classes to be included in the charter membership.

Living in the crowded portion of the city, the younger children had little place to play at home. Hence they went often to Pott's Hill overlooking the ball grounds, to Eagle's Point on the river above the city, or to the Hottmann home. Ferdinand and Arthur and Julia were the great friends of George, Ed and Carolyn. The river gave fine opportunity for boating to the older ones. Frank recalls one enjoyable camping trip with Will Haisch and one or two others. The spot was an island in the Mississippi about ten miles above Eagle Point, and reached from there by rowing. The start was made about nine in the evening, and there were some well blistered hands for the soft college student of the crowd before that distance and the current were conquered. There were mosquitoes also after arrival, but that did not stop the fun: the fishing and bathing and watching the river steamers pass by and the strings of lumber rafts being towed down.

In 1889, father and mother planned to go to Lomira on a visit. Just thirty-nine years before, grandmother Steiner and her children had left the old home in Switzerland. Julia had left the year before and at no time during those forty years had they all been together at one time. It occurred to Charlie that it would be possible to secure such a reunion, and it was finally brought about. After the lapse of forty years grandmother and her seven children came together with not one of the circle missing. It was a happy time for all concerned. The childhood memories of the old Swiss home were revived. With the German and English, there came in sometimes the old native tongue of Romansch, which grandmother rejoiced to hear again. To no one did the gathering mean more than to mother, who always had a loyal love for the old home, tho neither she nor any of the rest got back to visit it again.

This reunion suggested the one which took place the following summer, and which we called half in fun and half in earnest the "Cousins' Congress." All the children but George, Ed and Carolyn were present. Each of the families of grandmother's seven children was represented, and they came from seven states. There were thirty-eight of us first cousins, in addition to cousins' husbands, wives, and children, uncles, aunts, and second cousins. Charles, who had gone to Pittsburgh the summer before, came out to Dubuque with Cousins Harry and Laura Niebaum. For eight days we were together in Lomira with Uncle John and Uncle Jacob, and the old farm houses had all they could do to hold the crowd. We had hay rack rides and all manner of games. We picnicked at Lake De Ne Vue and dug into the Indian mounds. We had midnight lunches of *Kuchen* and milk. We even had some hunting, when Charlie and Harry Niebaum, hastily called by the report of game, tried to shoot the stuffed crane that had been invitingly "planted" for the purpose over in the pasture.

The full term of three years at Dubuque was followed by a return to Cedar Falls for a similar period (1892-1895). We were glad to get back to Cedar Falls and to the old friends. The older children at home were now ready for the advantages of the State Teachers' College, which had made



OTTO AND ANNA STEINER RALL AND CHILDREN
Left to right. Standing: Carolyn, Charles R., Anna, William A., Edward E., Harris Franklin. Seated: Otto Rall, Robert O., Anna Steiner Rall, George W., Julius Frederick. 1893.

marked progress under President Seerley. Here Anna and Ed enrolled in the fall of 1892, completing the two years high school course in 1894. Ed continued another year and finished the full course in 1895. Carolyn was in the Cedar Falls High School, from which she graduated in due time. Rob was now the only one in the grades. George had gone to Perry in 1891 and was working in F. L. Morgan's drug-store.

In 1893 father enjoyed a two months' trip to Germany. It had been forty years since he had left the old home and the visit was full of the deepest pleasure. His trip was made by way of England, but he did not tarry there. He journeyed up the Rhine, stopped off at Stuttgart with Bishop Horn who had made the trip with him, and then went on to the old home at Eningen.

The old town seemed very much changed to him, the houses with their gables very odd, and the streets very narrow. He stopped here at the home of his sister-in-law, Aunt Agathe Rall, and renewed acquaintance with those who were left after the lapse of forty years. Before the writer of these lines father's diary lies, with the notes of this journey. He tells here of one call upon two old ladies, old maids, who were deeply moved at seeing him, "nor did the event pass off without some kissing." Another who was visited was the leader of the little circle of pietists in Eningen, the *Stundenhalter*. One woman came to see him who had heard of his presence, the Rall from America, and wanted to know if this Otto Rall was really Kloepperle's Otto whom she had known as a boy. Reutlingen, as a thriving manufacturing city, was much more changed. Here there were a congregation and a chapel of the Evangelical Association, in which father preached on Sunday.

At Ulm father stopped a brief time with Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich Sommer, the latter being a niece. From here he hurried to Munich where lived the only surviving member of the old home circle, his sister, Frau Friedrike Muehleisen. Her son Ludwig, an officer in the army, was home on furlough at the time and was father's companion in some of his trips. Father's sister lived with her daughter Beate and the latter's husband, David Koch, while next door to them

and their little grocer's shop was her son Otto, the cousin who visited us in Hampton and who had a restaurant, living in rooms above this. Munich was father's headquarters for most of his stay. From here he made a trip through Switzerland in company with David Koch, the expense of the trip being a gift from his sister.

On his return father stopped at Landau with his niece Julie and her husband, Fritz Rabus, an officer in the garrison stationed there.

A brief stay was also made at Mannheim, where resided another niece with her husband, Herr Gymnasialdirektor Haug. Father had gone over on the Umbria. He returned by the Campania, sailing from Liverpool. It was a new vessel then and a very wonderful one for that day as to size and speed. It was 622 feet long. After a week's stop at Pittsburgh, father and Charlie started westward, stopping at Chicago for the World's Fair.

Charlie remained in Chicago while father hurried on after less than a day's stop. With the exception of mother and the two youngest, Carrie and Rob, we had all gone on to Chicago to see the fair. Ed had earned enough at lathing during the summer to pay his expenses. We stayed about a week, putting in full time and enjoying the wonders and beauties of the great White City.

It was a notable event in the history of the family when, on August 15, 1894, the first marriage of one of the children took place, that of William Anton to Nell Blanchard at the home of the latter in Adel, Iowa. Will and his partner, Charles J. Wild, had acquired the store at Perry, Iowa, and later the U. T. K. Shoe Store at Waterloo. The former of these was at this time in charge of Will. All the family were present at this wedding except the three youngest children.

Fred was elected justice of the peace in Cedar Rapids and held that office from 1895 to 1905 inclusive. He began the publishing of special record books for various fraternal orders in 1893-94, resigning his work at the express company about this time.

After completing his course in Iowa City in 1891, Frank had decided to return for another year. He had taken but

three years for his course, and felt that another year would be advantageous. In the spring of 1892, with the permission of the faculty, he took two months out of his course to fill a vacancy in the Moline High School, teaching Latin and geology. He then returned to Iowa City, and took his A.M., his thesis being a discussion of the philosophy of Parmenides with a translation of the fragments of his works. He declined an invitation to go back to Moline and accepted one to the West Des Moines High School as teacher of German. He was active in the work of the First Methodist Church there, teaching in Sunday School, an officer in the Epworth League, and superintendent of a mission school that met in the court house. An old university friend introduced him, soon after his arrival, to a group of First Church young people who were forming a Chautauqua circle, the Saturday Night Club. He did not join the club, but he noted one of its members, and later got what he wanted from the club without joining it.

Frank had decided to enter the ministry while in his senior year in college, and was licensed as a local preacher the following spring, 1892. His first sermon was preached in a little colored church in the outskirts of Iowa City. In the summer of 1893, during father's absence, he preached a number of times for father at the Cedar Falls and Fairfield churches, preaching at the latter place in German. In the summer of 1894 he supplied the Methodist Church at Colfax, Iowa, for three months. In the fall he entered Yale Divinity School. The first summer of his vacation he supplied the Asbury Church at Des Moines for four months, the next summer he was at Colfax again for two months. During his senior year at Yale he supplied Hope Chapel (Congregational) near Bridgeport in conjunction with his friend, Miles Fisher. During April and May of that year he served the Methodist Church at Wallingford, Conn. This work, added to his savings from teaching and the scholarships which he won during his course, enabled him to complete the course without debt. In the summer of 1897 he worked with Professor Stevens of Yale upon a plan to bring out a new translation and abbreviated edition of Julius Mueller's "Doctrine of Sin." The plan was later

given up tho he had already done considerable of the work of translation.

In the spring of 1895 father was transferred to East Des Moines (1895-1897), the church being located but a couple of squares from the State house. Carolyn and Edward remained at Cedar Falls long enough to complete their respective courses at the high school and the State Teachers' College. Carolyn lived with her friend, Lydia Eckhardt. Ed remained long enough after commencement to spend a couple of weeks with George and fourteen other "Normalites" camping in the Gates' Cottage (rechristened "Pedagogues' Perch") on the spot later known as Sans Souci, Cedar River Park, near Waterloo.

The following fall Carolyn entered the East Des Moines High School and took an additional year, graduating with the class of '96. Ed studied at the Capital City Commercial College during the summer in special commercial branches, and began teaching in the fall at Hawarden, Iowa, in the Hawarden Normal School. The school was conducted in combination with the high school, and Ed was associate principal. He remained here three years and was also engaged during the summer in teacher's institute work. George had decided to study medicine and began work to raise money for his medical course.

One sad incident in our stay here was the death of Theophilus Pflaum, son of Cousin Mathilda. The Pflaums had resided in Des Moines before our coming. Theophilus had remained when they left, continuing his work at Younker Brothers' department store. He was suddenly taken ill with appendicitis, operated upon at the hospital, and died the following night. The funeral service was held at our home.

One of the bright events was Fred's marriage, which occurred on September 22, 1896, at the home of the bride, Miss Flora Ashby, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Father, mother, Frank and Anna were present from our family. The wedding was private, and occurred at seven in the morning, Frank officiating.



SOME FAMILY GROUPS

1. *Standing*—George W., Charles R., Robert O. *Seated*—Edward E. Mother Rall, Carolyn. 1899.
2. Carolyn and Anna. 1896.
3. Harris Franklin, Charles R., William A., Robert O., Edward E., Julius Frederick, George W. 1893.

XI. The Close of a Chapter

In all these years our home had been unvisited by death. So simple and uneventful had our life been, that it did not seem that any tragedy would ever touch us. Our near neighbor in Des Moines and our old friend was Rev. George M. Gruener, at that time presiding elder in the Evangelical Association. He had been in poor health and father agreed to hold one of his quarterly conferences for him. It was upon this errand of duty that father left home early in the morning of July 30, 1897, planning to go to Corning. At Afton Junction he left the Great Western to wait for his train on the Burlington going west. In company with some traveling men he crossed the track and found a shady place in which to rest. After a while they heard the whistle of an approaching train on the Burlington. Assuming this to be theirs, they hurried across the track to the platform. It was, however, the fast mail which passes through here at about seventy miles an hour. The others got across. Father was struck by the train and instantly killed.

Frank was at home at the time, and it was he who met at the door the policeman that brought the message. The other children were informed at once and all were able to come. The sympathy of many friends was a great help in this hour. There was evident the respect and affection which father had won on every side, within his own church and without. Services were held in the church at Des Moines and then in the church at Cedar Falls, where the body was taken for burial. The Revs. E. J. Nolte, George Knoche, and George M. Gruener were among those who spoke. It was at once decided that mother and the younger children should make their home in Cedar Falls, and they removed there as soon as possible, renting the Simpson place at the corner of Eighth and Tremont.

Plans had been made before father's death for the marriage of two members of the circle, and these plans were now quietly carried out. Frank's marriage came first. He had completed his course at Yale in May and had been awarded the Hooker Fellowship, which gave the bearer the privilege of two years' study abroad with an income of six hundred dollars a year. This enabled him to carry out the purpose that he had cherished for years of studying in Germany. August 14, 1897, he was married to Rose St. John at her home in Des Moines. The following week, on August 18, Anna was married to William C. Nuhn in their own new home at 607 Tremont Street in Cedar Falls, Frank performing the ceremony. At both ceremonies mother could be present and all the brothers and sisters except Fred.

Accustomed as we all were to mother's impaired health and frequent illness, it seemed very strange that father should be taken first. Except for the accident in Hampton some fifteen years before and one illness some years before that, father had never been held up by the question of health in his work. And yet there was a fitness in this, that he was called in the midst of active labor and while on the path of duty. He himself had often expressed the wish that he might be taken without a long preceding period of illness or decay of powers.

No one can understand father's character without taking into account his home and ancestry. The strong religious nature was the deepest note. Nurtured in the old atmosphere of Swabian pietism, perhaps the warmest religious atmosphere in Germany, it was but temporarily repressed by the first associations into which the boy of fifteen fell when he came to this country. His hesitation to enter the ministry seems to have been in large part due to the desire to provide first for his family. With one failure after another in his business ventures, he seems to have concluded finally that he should throw himself in trust upon God's care and give himself to the uncertain fortunes of a pioneer preacher under the hard and primitive conditions of that time. The words of earnest consecration, written out and signed by him at this time, devoting himself and family and

all to God, mark the conclusion of this chapter and the most important turn in his life.

How strong father's devotion to the church was we all know. No task assigned to him was ever refused or ever taken unwillingly. In the atmosphere of our home, the church and its interests always stood first. To work for it, to give to it, to see it prosper was the first interest in life. And it was not just the church as an institution. Father was content to be a plain preacher. He would not put "Pastor" on the sign board of the church. It seemed too much like arrogating to himself some of the things which were associated with the *Herr Pastor* of the state church of the old country. It was not the institution but the religion that counted, religion as a devout personal relation with God and as integrity and unselfishness of life.

In these things father and mother stood absolutely together. There was little preaching to the children in the home. We all knew what the earnest desire of father and mother was. They wanted their children to love God and be in the church and to be true and good men and women. We knew that that was not an incident with them but their supreme ambition, that no success could compare with this in their mind. With this went a hatred of all sham and show, of any suggestion of merely wanting to seem, that was particularly strong in father. But, especially in later years, it was suggestion and influence and most of all prayer, on which they relied with their children, not command and exhortation. Frank's experience may illustrate this. He decided very early that he wanted to teach. In one of the long drives at Sumner upon which he used to go with father (he was then but twelve), they talked this over. He remembers still how father entered into it and then his casual remark that he and mother had hoped that Frank might become a preacher. That was all, and no word of advice or suggestion came later. Not till the close of his senior year at Iowa City did Frank think of entering the ministry. But when he had decided the matter and wrote home, the word came back that father and mother had been praying for this all these years.

How mother joined in this loyalty to religion and the church needs only to be mentioned. Her share of the load was the heavier. She had to save and plan. She had to care for the children and bear the heavy work when no servant could be found. She had to stay at home alone during father's long and frequent trips. She did it all cheerfully for the sake of the cause. It is not strange under these circumstances that all the children through these years should have been active in the church, and should have filled almost every kind of church office.

Mother's ambition for the children was perhaps the more active and aggressive. She had something of the energy and enterprise in this respect that her own mother showed. It was she who urged the schooling of the children. Father was ready enough for this but was more cautious and conservative and fearful about ways and means. He was more anxious about the financial provision for the future.

It seems a little strange that with father's ancestry of traders and business men he should have been so uniformly unfortunate in business ventures. He was careful in saving his earnings but these, and the moneys he received at various times in small amounts from Germany as legacies, were regularly sunk in unfortunate ventures. This was true after he entered the ministry. Now it was fraternal insurance that failed after years of payments, next some island land in Missouri, then a Nebraska farm which called for taxes too often and too long, or else it was money advanced to a farmer to raise cattle or sheep on shares. The trouble came mainly from father's over-readiness to trust men and their representations. But it gave point to mother's remark, that father's safest investments had been in the education of his children.

Another touch of father's southern temperament was his deep and quick emotional nature. Whether the Italian blood be present or not, the leap is not so far from southern Germany to Italy and the southern German is a type quite distinct from that of the north. It is rather curious in connection with this question of the Italian blood on father's side, to recall that mother's home was but a few miles from

the Italian border on a great trans-Alpine highway, and that her native tongue was Romance and not Teutonic.

Mother lived very comfortably in Cedar Falls with Carolyn and Rob. She was here in the midst of her friends, and they were all kind and helpful. She was not very strong but suffered from no particular ailment and was able to go regularly to church and prayer meeting, to her great comfort and pleasure. She had attended a cottage prayer meeting on the very day on which her last illness began. Father's insurance money, with some other funds left by him, gave income enough for the moderate expenses of the home. Anna lived but a little distance away and Will Nuhn looked after all her affairs as a true son. Ed spent his vacations at home and advised and helped in all matters.

During the first year Carolyn took charge of matters in the house, giving up school work. In the fall of 1897 mother and Carolyn went to Lomira, Wisconsin, upon a visit, stopping in Chicago upon the way to see Cousin John Steiner. In Lomira mother saw Aunt Julia, Aunt Katherine, and Uncle Jacob, all of whom were also in mourning. Rob graduated from the high school in Cedar Falls in 1899, and then attended the State Teachers' College for one year. During the first year Will Pflaum lived with the folks while attending the Teachers' College. In the fall of 1898 Carolyn entered the Teachers' College and Edward the State University. Louis Pelzer was with the folks during this year.

Frank and Rose returned from Germany in the fall of 1899. Frank had decided to remain in the East and to join the New York East Conference. As it was the middle of the conference year and he found no opening, he decided to spend another year at Yale doing graduate work. He was also asked to give some lectures in the divinity school. Rose went on to Des Moines and spent the winter at home.

On January 15, 1900, mother was taken very ill, suffering severe pains in her side. The next morning about six o'clock she sent for Anna and then called in Dr. Mead. The doctor diagnosed the trouble as obstruction of the bowels and did all he could to relieve her. An operation was deemed inadvisable on account of her age and general condition. She failed gradually, suffering a great deal. Carolyn

stayed out of school and attended her. The boys were informed of her illness. Will came from Perry to see her. Charles and Frank wrote her long letters from the east. Rose came on from Des Moines to be with mother and to help.

On Friday, January 26, at noon mother began to fail rapidly, losing consciousness in the afternoon. The boys were sent for at once. Fred came on Friday afternoon and mother recognized him. Ed arrived at eleven o'clock that night, George at three or four the next morning, Will at six, Charles on Saturday evening, and Frank later. At five o'clock on Saturday morning, January 27, 1900, she passed quietly away, being unconscious during her last hours. The funeral was held in the old church on Monday and the body laid away beside father's in Greenwood cemetery overlooking the Cedar River. Rev. George Knoche and Rev. George M. Gruener were the speakers, and the six oldest sons served as pall bearers.

After mother's death the home was broken up. Carolyn and Rob lived for a while with Anna and Will Nuhn. In June Carolyn graduated as Bachelor of Didactics from the State Teachers' College, Edward as B.A. from the University of Iowa, and George as M.D. from Northwestern University.



FAMILY REUNION OF 1906

1. *Left to Right*—George W., Harris Franklin, Julius Frederick, Robert O., Charles R., Edward E., William C. Nuhn, Carolyn.
2. Rose St. John Rall, Florence Ashby Rall, Mary E., Anna Rall Nuhn with Hilda, William A. with Donald, Nell Blanchard Rall, Mildred.
3. Owen, Staten, Richard A., Ferner Nuhn, Marjorie Nuhn.

XII. Looking Backward

It is natural in writing such a story that one should look back again and make comparisons. The earlier days in particular were in sharp contrast with present times so far as many privileges were concerned, and first of all in the matter of books and papers. Fred began reading at West Point, with slow progress at first probably because of the handicap from the speaking of German at home. An encyclopedia of history and biography was secured at West Point and was literally read through by the older boys. Hardly any other books for children were added till we came to Hampton. The *Weekly Witness* of New York was taken very early by father. His own papers and books for study were almost all German at first.

In this day of multitudinous books and papers it is hard to realize how limited we were in the earlier years. It was at Hampton that they first began to be a little more plentiful. Fred was now away from home at Iowa Falls and he helped us out. Early in our Hampton stay (1879-1882), he began sending us the *Youth's Companion*. That paper deserves a special tribute from us. Before the writer just now is a *Youth's Companion* calendar with the weekly day of arrival marked in red. That was the way in which we thought of it then; its arrival was a red-letter day. We read it from beginning to end, and how we pored over that premium supplement with its alluring offerings! It gave us wholesome stories and fine moral ideals which we took in without realizing it. Near by us in Hampton lived the McCrillis family, who took the *St. Nicholas* and had the files of this for a number of years, probably from the beginning, for the *St. Nicholas* began publication in 1873, only six years before we came to Hampton. By their kindness we became acquainted with that fine monthly. How we prized those old magazines, and how careful we were of them!

Of books we still had but very few and there were not many good books that we could borrow. One of our possessions was "True Riches, or Wealth Without Wings," by T. S. Arthur, author of "Ten Nights in a Bar Room." How many boys would draw that book out of the public library today or welcome it joyously as a Christmas gift? We read it and reread it, all of us. Of course we got hold of Robinson Crusoe in some manner, and not long after we were loaned Swiss Family Robinson. These first books of real adventure were a pure joy. Gulliver's Travels we read with equal delight and, of course, with no thought of the satire or any other deeper meaning. A Sunday School teacher loaned us Huckleberry Finn at about this time and so introduced us to Mark Twain. The Congregational Sunday School had a library of paper bound stories. They were not bad and probably not very good; at least they left no definite impression. The last year in Hampton we received the first copies of a weekly story paper, Golden Days. In its first years, this paper was much better than later, but still it was decidedly below the level of the other reading that we had. Stories of adventure of a somewhat overstrained character were its specialty. To us they were of the most intense interest. There was that Christmas in Sumner (1882) when we received a bound volume as a present from Fred. Will discovered the secret a few days before Christmas by finding the wrapper, but kept it from the rest of us. How we gloated over the 832 pages of prospective delight! Four books came to us as premium volumes which Fred secured from the Youth's Companion, books that were almost literally read to pieces: Bound in Honor, Just His Luck, Good Old Times, and His Own Master. J. W. Trowbridge was the author of at least one of these.

It was inevitable that Fred should be mentioned again and again in this matter. He had gone to Iowa Falls the year after we left Ackley, in 1880. He was then but 17. Charlie at 15 was the oldest at home. When Rob came in 1881 there were eight children at home. Fred worked in the Post office at Iowa Falls and took subscriptions to newspapers and magazines on the side. The Companion premium list helped out more than once on our Christmas

problem. For Fred was then, as for years later, mother's chief assistant in making something of Christmas for us. They were very simple Christmas celebrations. Of course we had our celebration at the Sunday School, in which we rejoiced over the tree with its lights (real candles, too, which no electric lights can equal). We took our share in the exercises, and got our bag of candy in due time. In the earlier years we did not have a Christmas tree at home, nor did we hang up our stockings. Instead of this the table was set and in the morning we found on our plates the candies and nuts, with perhaps an orange, and our gifts at the side. Very simple gifts they were. One Christmas at Hampton mother warned us especially that we must not expect anything, for times were very hard and Santa Claus poor. We were always loyal, I think, in such matters, with a due family pride, and we were quite ready to do without gifts that Christmas. The greater was our joy to find the candy and nuts as usual and some gifts too. There was a gyroscope top and some other equally simple toys, probably from a Youth's Companion premium through Fred. Not very much, but enough to make a most happy Christmas. And what thrifty hoarding there was of nuts and candies to make the little store last as long as possible. We surely extracted the maximum amount of pleasure out of those goodies.

Well, we did not ask anybody's pity and we did not need it. True, the Christmas candy was about all that we got during the year. We had no spending money but the occasional nickel that we earned. And it is not easy to wear boots for Sunday that have been handed down, that are rather too large for you, and that you have had to shine up as a makeshift with stove polish. Nevertheless we had our abundance of good times. We never bothered mother with the question, What can I do to amuse me? Time did not hang heavy. There was always something doing. Our house was usually neighborhood headquarters, for there were enough of us boys at hand to "start something" almost any time. And the doors of the house were open. There was no fine furniture to be endangered, no polished floors to scratch, no costly rugs to suffer. But our

real life was out of doors. We had coasting and skating in winter, built our forts and had our snow ball fights. We went fishing and "swimmin'" in summer, even though we had nothing more than Mott's creek or that tiny stream just outside of Hampton. At Hampton we could find wild strawberries, and walnuts, butternuts, and hazel nuts could be gotten. Sometimes there were plums and wild crabs, and it must be admitted that orchards and melon patches were occasionally included in our hunting grounds. Fourth of July was a great occasion, especially if the town got up a celebration and had a greased pig chase and the climbing of a greased pole and other elevating entertainment of like character. And then there was the interesting problem how to spend most advantageously the money that you had saved. Fire works were out of the question; that was a public affair. You had to have firecrackers. But one bunch went a long way, and there were recklessly extravagant men who would fire a whole bunch at a time and leave plenty of good unexploded crackers for you to pick up. A thrifty investment was a cocoanut. Out of this you first got the milk, and then the meat could be divided up and made to extend over quite a period.

Hard cash was not easy to secure. Sometimes there was a chance at picking berries or such labors. A little printing press was secured while we were at Sumner and we did some business in printing calling cards for the other boys, for that was about all it could print. What use did these country boys have for calling cards? That is rather hard to say, but they bought them. It is something to have your name in print, even if only on a card. And they were some cards! None of your plain uninteresting white affairs! There were gaily colored cards with Central Park (New York) scenes upon them, and birch bark cards (a beautiful imitation), and floral cards, and transparent cards that revealed interesting pictures when held up to the light. Later we transferred our attentions to a scroll saw, likewise secured as a premium. Cigar boxes furnished us with wood at first, and then we purchased mahogany and holly and ebony with the money gotten from the sale of picture frames and paper knives and doll furniture.



A REUNION GROUP OF 1906

Left to right—W. A. Rall with Donald, Mary Elspeth, Owen, Marjorie Nuhn with Hilda, Richard A., Staten, Mildred, W. C. Nuhn with Ferner.

We look back now with some wonder and try to understand how the family was able to live on father's meager salary. He certainly never received more than \$700 cash in one year, and in the earlier days it was more often under five hundred, sometimes a good deal under. Of course, there was the free house and the big difference in the cost of food. But when all is said, it can be imagined what thrift and economy were necessary to maintain a family that included part of the time eight children at home with father and mother. And six of the eight were active healthy boys with their full share of appetite. We ate the least expensive of foods. A big soup bone with plenty of meat on it could be secured for ten cents. Potatoes and cabbage were cheap, and so there was a hearty dinner for ten at a trifling cost.

There were many ways in which the larder was helped out. The garden was carefully cultivated, and vegetables played a larger part on the table than meat. We kept a cow, and sometimes sold milk. There were chickens that furnished eggs and an occasional Sunday dinner. When such dinners were over it was a case of *spurlos versenkt*. There was no strife over the division of spoils, however, for each had a certain proprietary right to his particular part, and mother knew how to make each bird yield the maximum of delicious gravy. We usually got a little porker, or even two, to be fattened up for winter killing, and so there were hams, sausage, lard, ribs, and pork to accompany the *Spatzen* and *Kraut*. Until we went to Dubuque father always had appointments with country churches, or at least country members. Of course we had to keep a horse, sometimes two. The farmers supplied grain and hay for the horse and usually enough for the cow. Then father would often bring home potatoes, and sometimes butter, eggs, or even meat in winter, with some gifts of flour in the earlier years. Until the later years we usually put up our own *Kraut*, often a barrel full. There does not seem to be any *Kraut* like that any more!

It need hardly be said that mother was the center and stay of this system of household economy. She planned and provided and utilized. She baked those enormous weekly batches of bread. And the *Kaffee Kuchen*! Square

or round, seven or eight large ones for a week, one for every morning as the central item of breakfast. And for birthdays, later on at least, there had to be a coffee cake with just a little more burnt sugar and cream on top and even with some raisins inside. Presents on Christmas and birthdays both could not be expected, but the special coffee cake marked that day.

Mother was always thinking of others and planning for their comfort and happiness. No privation or self-denial was too much if it meant something for the children. It was her ambition to have every one of the children get a good education, if possible to go through college. She used to say at Christmas that we need not get anything for her, that the best present we could give her was for us to be good children, and that we sometimes thought was the hardest thing she could ask. As a young woman she was very fond of reading and study and even wrote some for one of the church papers. The latter was soon ruled out by a mother's duties, and in later years trouble with her sight, including the loss of the use of one eye, made much reading difficult.

Even during her last illness, when every one was concerned about her, she thought of others and not of herself. Mrs. Sartori came in one day to inquire about her, and mother called Carolyn into her room to make sure that she had offered Mrs. Sartori a chair. Sure enough, Carrie had forgotten it and Mrs. Sartori was too much interested in conversation to think of sitting down. Rose called her attention to the fact that Rob was there and asked if she wanted to say anything to him. She answered, "Rob knows what I would say." Her life had, indeed, taught us far better than words what she coveted for us and what she wanted us to be. Her quiet unselfishness, her devotion to her home, her loyalty to high ideals, her affection for the church, her love of God, made a deep impression upon all who knew her. Her memory is an inspiration and a benediction. And this life of service she lived with a body that was slight and with the not infrequent recurrence of illness. Almost the last thing she said was "God is good."

Father's education had been limited, for he had left school when as a boy he came to this country. He tried to over-

come this handicap by serious study, and his library contained a good many books of very solid value. The Evangelical Association, now the Evangelical Church, was founded in the early days by men who were in sympathy with the spirit and doctrines of the Methodist Church, and whose only reason for starting the separate work was that the Methodist Church failed to see the need of work among the Germans and in the German language at that time. In its doctrines and discipline it was modeled on the Methodist Church. Today its work is predominantly English, but in those early days its special task was to minister to German-speaking people.

The service that such a church rendered can hardly be overestimated. Newcomers from Germany could be reached in this manner as in no other way. And, once reached, they were brought into touch with the best ideals and influences of Protestant America. The founder, Jacob Albright, was an American soldier in the Revolutionary War. The temperance sentiment was strong even with the earlier leaders. The church was vigorously missionary and evangelistic in its spirit. And as conditions changed it moved gradually and naturally over into the use of the English language, especially with the young people. Father himself never ventured to preach in English, though naturally much of the work in his churches in later years, especially in Sunday School and young people's societies, was carried on in English.

In the very first years German alone was used in our home. Later a distinct effort was made to keep up some of the German so that the children might not be entirely without knowledge of the language. But with English in the school and on the playground, that was not easy to be done. Father had a real appreciation of German literature and of the value that a knowledge of the language would have; with his liberal spirit and his deep and intelligent devotion to this country and its ideals, he would have found it rather hard to understand the attitude of some in recent years who have mistaken narrowness for Americanism and bigotry for patriotic devotion.

XIII. Latter Days

Though the old home was given up, the family tie was not allowed to loosen. From the first what we had was shared together. Fred's help in earlier years, Charlie's in later times, and Will's steady contribution of his earnings to father until he became of age, are all worthy of special note by the younger members of the circle. And we have felt that it was worth while to maintain this bond.

Our Round Robin has been one means to this end. When Frank was abroad, 1897 to 1899, and especially while he and Rose were traveling, he sent home to mother very full letters which then went around the circle of those away from home. When he came home he proposed that we use the plan of a continuous circular letter to which all should contribute, each adding his letter as the bunch came around and taking out the one previously written. This Round Robin has been kept up without intermission since 1899, though once in 1918 the package of letters was lost. It has usually made nine or ten rounds in a year stopping at from six to twelve places. One of the most pleasant features has been the fact that the circle of writers has been increased by each member that has joined by marriage and that the grandchildren have joined as contributors. Thus through all these years we have heard each from all the rest every four to six weeks.

Our family reunions have been the second means of maintaining the family tie. The first of these, after we had begun to scatter more widely, was in Cedar Falls in 1893. Father's death and the weddings of Frank and Anna brought us together at Des Moines and Cedar Falls in August, 1897. In 1900 mother's death was the occasion of another meeting.

Our most notable reunion was that in Cedar Falls in 1906 where we spent two full weeks together. It had been long



THE NINE RALL CHILDREN AT THE REUNION OF 1906

1. Harris Franklin, Charles R., Carolyn L., Edward E., William A., George W.
2. Julius Frederick, Robert O., Anna.

and carefully planned and none of the circle was missing. There were Fred and Flo from Cedar Rapids, with Richard, Staten and Owen. Charles came from Pittsburgh, as did George and Rob. Will and Nell were present from Cedar Rapids with Mildred and Donald. Frank and Rose came from Baltimore with Mary, and Ed from Texas. Anna and Will were on the ground as hosts, with Marjorie, Ferner and Hilda, as was Carolyn. Orville Elder came one day as a visitor, to be later heartily welcomed into the circle. Cedar Falls had been more of a home to us than any other place, and the Cedar River had delightful memories for us all. We rented a cottage on its banks and supplemented it with a large tent, giving room enough for our crowd of twenty-two. Bathing, boating, fishing, kodaking formed our recreation with plenty of visiting—and eating.

In 1913 we met together in Cedar Rapids, again on the banks of the Cedar. We used the two summer cottages of Fred and Will and rented a third for the twenty-four who were present. Ed was ill in Knoxville with typhoid fever, nor did Carolyn feel able to come. There were present Fred and Flo with Richard, Staten, Owen, and Everett; Charlie and Elizabeth with Charles Otto; Will and Nell with Mildred; Frank and Rose and Mary; Anna and Will with Marjorie, Ferner and Hilda; besides George, Rob, Orville, and David.

The first break in the circle of the children occurred with the death of Carolyn on September 12, 1919, in the beautiful home in Washington which had been occupied so short a time. Other losses had come before and have come since in the wider circle, as the items in the individual family records will show, but Carolyn's death at 41 has been the only breach made in the circle of the nine children up to the date of this last writing, December, 1925.

June of 1921 saw us together once more at Cedar Falls. This time we were across the river from the old camping place which we had occupied fifteen years before. We used Will's cottage but depended principally upon the excellent conveniences of the camp meeting association on whose beautiful grounds we met. While there had been losses, there were some additions to the circle as well, though not

all could be present. The circle of brothers and sisters excepting Carolyn were, however, all there.

The events of the later years have not been recorded in full: the death of Clara and Charlie's later marriage to Elizabeth; Orville's marriage which enabled us to welcome Josephine to the circle; Rose's death but a little while before the last reunion and Frank's marriage to Maud. The first weddings among the children were mentioned but not Ed's marriage to Nell and Rob's to Esther, nor have we spoken of the coming of the children.

The death of Cousin Mathilda Pflaum at her home in Tacoma in the fall of 1925 might be chronicled here, and note might be made of the coming to Pittsburgh of Cousin Otto Muehleisen, son of the Cousin Otto who visited us long ago in Hampton, Iowa. Cousin Otto came in 1924 and his wife and daughter are to join him soon. It is an interesting fact that he is almost the only one of the near relatives on either side to have removed to this country in all the years since father's and mother's coming. Items relative to the different families of the children are recorded in the personal sketches that follow. The history proper has concerned itself in the main with telling the story of the old home.



FAMILY REUNION OF 1921

1. *Left to right*—Mildred, Owen, Bertha Biederman, George W., Marjorie Nuhn, Harris Franklin.
2. Mary E., Nell Platt Rall, Edward E., W. C. Nuhn, Anna Rali Nuhn, Orville Elder, Josephine Miller Elder, Robert O., Esther Haller Rall.
3. William A., Nell Blanchard Rall, Julius Frederick, Florence Ashby Rall, Charles R., Elizabeth Hieber Rall, Marianna.
4. David Rall Elder, Hilda Nuhn, Staten, Ferner, Everett, Charles O.

APPENDIX

A. Individual Sketches

The main purpose of this little volume is to tell the story of our common family life during the time when father and mother were with us, as well as to sketch the old world background and antecedents. It seemed best in addition to bring together in one place a brief outline of the main facts in the life of each of the children.

* * *

Julius Frederick Rall was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1863. The financial needs of the family and poor school facilities caused him to leave school at fifteen. He worked for one year as clerk in a store and a year as assistant postmaster at Ackley, Iowa, and then held the same position in Iowa Falls for seven years, 1880 to 1887. From 1888 to 1893 he was cashier of the United States Express Co. at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he has lived ever since. In 1893 he began the business of publishing lodge books for various fraternal orders, in which he has continued to the present time.

He has been very active politically in the Republican party. He was justice of peace from 1895 to 1905. He was mayor for two terms from 1918 to 1922, and re-elected for a third term in 1924. This position, however, is non-partisan. In 1921 he was president of the Iowa State League of Municipalities. He is an active member of the Congregational Church. From 1898 to 1921 he served as treasurer of this church, and has been a trustee since the latter date. In 1924 he was moderator of the Davenport Association of Congregational Churches. He belongs to various fraternal orders, is a thirty-second degree Mason, and was Master of Bruce Chapter, Rose Croix, Scottish

Rite Masons, 1914 to 1916. He was Grand Chancellor of Iowa, Knights of Pythias, 1917-1918.

On September 22, 1896, he married Flora Ashby of Cedar Rapids. They have the following children:

1. Richard Ashby Rall, born November 9, 1897. Married Dorothy Livesay, April 24, 1918. To them were born Dorothy Jane, February 19, 1919, and Richard Ashby, Jr., born August 21, 1920.

2. Staten Eugene Rall, born October 1, 1900. Graduated from Coe College in 1923, Lieutenant 17th Infantry, U. S. A. During the war he was 9 months in the Navy at Newport Station.

3. Owen Frederick Rall, born December 1, 1901. Graduated Coe College in 1922, Northwestern University Law School in 1924 (highest honors), admitted to Illinois Bar same year. Married Bertha Biederman in spring of 1923. A daughter, Kathryn, was born June 22, 1925.

4. Everett Orville Rall was born June 26, 1908.

* * *

Charles Rudolph Rall was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1865. He graduated from the Hampton High School in 1882, and from the University of Iowa in 1886 with the degree of Civil Engineer. The fall and winter of 1886-1887 he taught in the Dysart High School. During most of 1887 he travelled as sales engineer for E. A. Spalding, Bridge Contractor, Dubuque, Iowa. He taught at Garwin, Iowa, the winter of 1887-1888, and at Danville, Wisconsin in 1888-1889, visiting meanwhile relatives at Lomira, Wisconsin. In 1889 he came to Pittsburgh and found work again in his special field, making his home with Aunt Julia Niebaum at 141 Elm St. He was chief draftsman and Engineer for the McConway and Torley Co., 1889-1894. After a few months as cement testing engineer for Capt. Hoxie, U. S. A., on the Herr's Island Dam, he went to Best, Fox and Co., Piping Manufacturers and Contractors, first as Sales Engineer, later as Manager of Sales. When the business was incorporated as the Best Manufacturing Co., he became stockholder, director and treasurer. In May, 1903, with George H. Danner and Joseph K. Smith he formed the Pittsburgh Piping and Equipment Co., serving fourteen years as Secretary and Treasurer, then as

Vice-President and Treasurer, and later as Vice-President and Secretary. In 1925 a consolidation was effected with the American Foundry and Construction Co., the latter giving up its name in the merger. The new capitalization is \$1,400,000.00, and the new plant, taken possession of in 1925, is probably the most complete of its kind in the country.

On arrival in Pittsburgh, Charles joined the Zion (now First) Evangelical Church, to which father and mother had belonged. He has served this church in almost every capacity, including 29 years as Sunday School Superintendent. He has had many responsible positions in Annual Conference and in General Conference work. He was president of the Conference Branch of the Young People's Alliance for 17 years, was on the general church board for this society for 20 years, being recording secretary most of that time. He took the leading part in organizing the work of the newly formed General Commission on Finance of the Evangelical Church, and was financial secretary and treasurer for nine years, directing practically all of its executive work. He has served in various community interests and has been for many years one of the managers of the Allegheny County Sabbath School Association. He is a member of the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, the Rotary Club, and various Masonic bodies. He has been officer and director in the Hempfield Foundries Co., Keystone Petroleum Co., Sunny View Stock Farm, Pioneer Toy and Novelty Co., etc.

December 31, 1901, Charles was married to Clara Hieber at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and they began housekeeping in their newly built home at 210 Amber St. Clara died in Colorado Springs, March 7, 1903. On April 4, 1907 he was married to Elizabeth Hieber at Cedar Falls, Iowa. On February 25, 1908, Charles Otto was born.

* * *

William Anton Rall was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa, May 5, 1868. He began work at the Weaver Book Store, Iowa Falls, Iowa, in 1884, after having completed part of the high school course at Cedar Falls, Iowa. From 1885 to 1891 he was in a shoe store at Cedar Falls, first as salesman,

then in 1889 as partner. Later he formed a partnership with Charles J. Wild of Cedar Falls, the firm owning stores at Cedar Falls, Perry, and later at Waterloo, Ia. From 1891 to 1902 he was in charge of the store at Perry, Ia. From 1902 to 1922 he conducted the Rall Shoe Co. at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and for two years following the Rall-Borschel Motor Co. in the same place. He is now connected with the Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York, and has two Iowa farms to supervise, having for years been interested in lands.

Will has been prominently active in the commercial organizations of Cedar Rapids, in church work of various kinds, and in fraternal circles. He was treasurer of the building committee which erected the new St. Paul's Methodist Church and has served the church in many other capacities. He is a thirty-second degree Mason.

August 15, 1894, he was married to Nellie Cole Blanchard at the bride's home at Adel, Iowa, this being the first wedding in the circle of the children. To them was born Mildred Irene at Perry, Iowa, October 2, 1902, two children previously born dying in infancy. After graduating from the Cedar Rapids High School and the National Park Seminary at Washington, D. C., Mildred graduated with honors from the University of Iowa, the first of the second generation to study at the old school. She is at present employed in the art department of the Killian Co., Cedar Rapids. Rumor has it that a former University schoolmate expects her to remove to Kansas City next June. Donald Anton Rall was born at Cedar Rapids, February 21, 1904. Affectionate and unusually attractive in disposition, his loss was deeply mourned when, after a brief illness, he died at Perry, Iowa, August 14, 1907.

* * *

Harris Franklin Rall was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa, February 23, 1870. He graduated from the Cedar Falls High School in 1886. The next year he worked in a grocery store at Dysart and in the spring of 1887 taught a district school nearby. He entered the University of Iowa in 1887, attended two years, taught one year in the Nashua, Iowa, High School, returned to Iowa City in 1890 and graduated

as valedictorian of his class in 1891, with Phi Beta Kappa honors conferred later when a chapter was organized at Iowa. Returning next year he took his M. A. degree, teaching a spring term at the Moline High School. 1892-1894 he taught German in the Des Moines High School. 1894-1897 he attended Yale, taking the divinity course (B.D., 1897, first honors) and work in philosophy in the graduate school. During his course he preached summers at Colfax, Iowa, 1894, Asbury, Des Moines, 1895, Colfax, 1896, and at Fairfield Chapel (Congregational) during 1896-1897, also one spring at Wallingford, Conn.

August 14, 1897 he married Rose St. John of Des Moines. They were abroad two years, Frank, as incumbent of the Hooker Fellowship (Yale), studying one semester at Berlin, three at Halle, taking his Ph.D. at Halle in August, 1899, *magna cum laude*. While Rose remained at home, Frank spent the next year in further study at Yale, giving one course of lectures before the Divinity School, and joining the New York East Conference of the Methodist Church in April, 1900. His first pastorate was at East Berlin, Conn. There Rose joined him in June. In September of the same year he was transferred to Trinity Church, New Haven, going from there to First Church, Baltimore, in April, 1904. In Baltimore he remained till September 1, 1910, when he went as president to reopen the Iliff School of Theology at Denver. The fall of 1915 he went to his present position as professor of systematic theology at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois.

He was secretary of the General Conference Commission on Revision of Ritual, whose work, adopted in 1916, is embodied in the present Discipline of the church. He originated the plan of the Commission on Courses of Study for the ministers and lay preachers of the church, adopted by the General Conference in 1916, and has been a member of the Commission and its secretary from the beginning. He has been a member of the executive committee of the Methodist Federation for Social Service almost since its founding. He has published, "A New Testament History", "A Working Faith", "Life of Jesus", "Teachings of Jesus", two manuals to accompany the last two, "Modern Premillennialism and

the Christian Hope", "The Coming Kingdom", and "The Meaning of God." The first and next to the last of these are in the Conference Course for ministers. He has edited three editions of the five volumes of Directions and Helps, which are manuals for students in the Conference Course, and has contributed large portions of these.

After a lingering illness, Rose died June 11, 1921. On November 30, 1922, Frank married Maud St. John of Des Moines, Iowa, a graduate of the University of Iowa, at that time head of the department of mathematics of the East Des Moines High School.

Mary Elspeth Rall was born in Trinity parsonage, New Haven, Conn., October 11, 1901. She graduated from the Evanston High School in 1919, and from Goucher College in 1923, taking in addition summer work at Northwestern University. During 1923-24 she taught science at the University School for Girls in Chicago. In the fall of 1924 she went to New York for a two years' course leading to the M.A. degree, giving half time to studies at Columbia, and half to settlement work at the Church of All Nations where she resides.

* * *

Anna Rall Nuhn was born at West Point, Nebraska, February 19, 1872. She graduated from the Dubuque High School and from the Iowa State Teachers' College in 1894. On August 18, 1897, she was married to William C. Nuhn of Cedar Falls, Iowa. She has been very active in church work, among other positions holding the presidency of the Iowa Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church for 12 years. It is interesting to note that, as Charles and George and Rob are leaders in the First Evangelical Church at Pittsburgh, to which as Zion Church father and mother belonged in their first years of married life, so Anna and Will are leaders in the Cedar Falls Evangelical Church where father served two terms of three years each, longer than at any other place. Besides his important work as secretary of the Sartori Hospital, treasurer of the Western Old People's Home, member of the Board of Church Extension and Board of Missions, Will was superintendent of the Sunday School for 35 years, being

now superintendent emeritus, and has been church treasurer for 35 years. Anna has been many years teacher in Sunday School, is active in W. C. T. U., and at present, president of the Woman's Club and of the local W. M. S.

Marjorie was born October 31, 1898. She graduated from the Cedar Falls High School, and studied at the State Teachers' College, and finishes the kindergarten course this year (1926).

Ferner Rall Nuhn was born July 25, 1903. He graduated from the Cedar Falls High School, from North Western College with honors in 1924, won a scholarship for the University of Illinois, and began work there as a graduate student in English in 1924, receiving his M.A. degree in June, 1925. In 1925 he returned as instructor in Rhetoric.

Hilda Carolyn was born March 31, 1906. She graduated from the Cedar Falls High School and is now a student at North Western College, Naperville, Ill.

* * *

George Washington Rall was born January 23, 1874, near Van Horne, Iowa, at the settlement called New Germany. He graduated from the Dubuque High School in 1891. For two years he worked in Morgan's Drug Store at Perry, Iowa, going from there to Pfeiffer's Drug Store in Cedar Falls. After a year at the State Teachers' College, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 1894-1895, he returned for a time to Morgan's at Perry, but in the fall of 1896 entered the Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago. He graduated in 1900, being president of his class during the senior year. Winning an appointment at Mercy Hospital, he served there six months as externe and one year as interne. Taking the Pennsylvania State Board examination in June, he located in Pittsburgh, Pa., and opened an office at 6106 Penn Ave., in the summer of 1902. After a few years he moved to 6454 Frankstown Ave. and to his present office at 6101 Penn Ave. in 1910.

In 1902 he became a member of the staff of the Pittsburgh Free Dispensary, serving in various departments for almost twenty years. He is at present a member of the Board of Managers. He is a member of county, state, and national medical societies. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum

and medical examiner. He has taught "First Aid" courses in the East Liberty Y. M. C. A. for many years and helped organize the first aid work for the Allegheny County Boy Scouts. He has been active in church and Sunday School work, holding many different positions. He is unmarried and since 1910 has made his home with Charles at 210 Amber Street.

* * *

Edward Everett Rall was born February 11, 1876, at the New Germany settlement near Van Horne, Iowa. He graduated from the Dubuque High School in 1892, and from the State Teachers' College in 1895. Preparing further for some of his next year's work, he attended the Capitol City Commercial College at Des Moines that summer. From 1895 to 1898 he was associate principal of the Hawarden Normal School (which served as public high school), teaching various subjects including commercial branches. The years 1898 to 1900 he spent at the University of Iowa where he graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors. Receiving a graduate scholarship, he took a course in philosophy and psychology at Yale, 1900 to 1903, living with Frank and Rose, taking his Ph.D. with a thesis on "Mysticism as a Theory of Religious knowledge." The following year he was principal of the Red Oak, Iowa, High School. The fall of 1904 he agreed to go as instructor with a projected Nautical Preparatory School. After being on boat (S. S. Pennsylvania) for two weeks at Providence, the project went on the rocks financially, and Ed spent the following year as special student at Teachers' College, (Columbia University). Here he revised and wrote a chapter for Dean Russell's volume on German Higher Schools and received a Master's Diploma.

From 1905 to 1911 he was instructor in education at the University of Texas. Here he led in the project that resulted in the building of the University Church (M. E., South). From 1911 to 1916 he was professor of education at the University of Tennessee, succeeding P. P. Claxton when the latter became U. S. Commissioner of Education. While here he was Sunday School Superintendent for the great Church Street Church (M. E., South). Another im-

portant duty at the University was that of Supervisor of Normal Subjects for the Summer School, for which he had to secure a staff of fifty or sixty instructors and lecturers each year. In 1916 he became president of North Western College, Naperville, Ill, the chief educational institution of the Evangelical Church. In the nine years following, the enrollment of the college has more than doubled, being now considerably over 500 in the college proper, exclusive of other departments, while the budget has increased from \$40,000.00 to \$125,000.00, and the endowment has had added to it \$430,000.00.

July 17, 1917, he married Nell Platt of Knoxville, Tenn. Joseph Edward was born February 3, 1920.

* * *

Carolyn Louise Rall was born in Ackley, Iowa, April 1, 1878. She attended the Cedar Falls High School, graduating in June, 1895. The folks had moved to Des Moines early in the spring but she remained in Cedar Falls to the end of the school year, living with the Eckhardts. In Des Moines, she took up some additional work in the East Des Moines High School and graduated from same in June, 1896. After father's death in 1897 she and Rob moved with mother to Cedar Falls, Iowa. Carolyn stayed at home for a year taking care of mother and the house, and in the fall of 1898 entered the State Teachers' College and graduated in June, 1900, with a degree of B.Di. From 1900 to 1901 she taught in the grade schools in Carroll, Iowa. In the fall of 1901 she entered the State University of Iowa at Iowa City and graduated in June, 1903, with the degree of B.A. and with Phi Beta Kappa honors. In the fall of the same year she began teaching in the Washington, Iowa, High School and remained there for three and one-half years, doing exceptionally fine work and giving the greatest satisfaction.

She resigned in December, 1906, to marry John Orville Elder, editor and publisher of the Washington, Iowa, Daily Journal. She was married April 4, 1907 at a double wedding as Charles at the same time was married to Elizabeth Hieber at the Hieber home in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Brother Frank performed the ceremony, coming from Baltimore for this purpose.

David Rall Elder was born April 18, 1911. Carolyn's life in Washington, Iowa, was an exceptionally happy one but she was taken ill shortly after the Elder family moved into their beautiful new home and died September 12, 1919. After every help had been sought for her, she turned back to spend the last weeks of her life in her own home, happy that she could be back again with those who loved her and surrounded her with every care to the end. She faced the future quietly and confidently, with a mind at leisure to take the most careful thought for those she left behind.

* * *

Robert Otto Rall was born at Hampton, Iowa, February 9, 1881. He attended the East Des Moines High School one year and then completed his high school course at Cedar Falls in 1899. He attended the Iowa State Teachers' College for one year and then decided to study engineering, debating between New Haven and Pittsburgh. Entering the Western University of Pennsylvania, now University of Pittsburgh, he graduated as mechanical engineer in 1905. His vacations he spent at various jobs, as painter, draftsman, bank messenger, Pennsylvania station usher, and surveyor. In September, 1903, he went to the hospital with typhoid on the day when he should have begun his senior year. During most of these years he lived with his brother Charles or Aunt Julia Niebaum.

After graduation he started work with a classmate in the steam turbine testing department of the Westinghouse Machine Co. He had worked with the American Tin Plate Co. in the summer of 1901, and this now led to a position with the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co. This connection lasted till April, 1914, and included in turn the positions of draughtsman, checker, estimator, assistant chief draftsman, assistant to assistant engineer, and engineering department representative to the mills. He then became assistant engineer of the Whitaker-Glessner Co. of Wheeling, W. Va.

August 3, 1914, he married Esther P. Haller of Pittsburgh, beginning housekeeping at Altenheim near Wheeling. His work soon took him to Portsmouth, Ohio, but in 1915 he returned to Pittsburgh, working with the Mackintosh-

Hemphill Co. as engineer in connection with building chemical plants for war purposes. During this time they made their home on La Clair St., Swissvale, where Marianna was born January 17, 1917. The following March he went to Chicago and worked at the Mark plant of the Steel and Tube Co. of America, which was then being erected at Indiana Harbor. Here he and Esther joined the Auburn Park M. E. Church, where he taught a men's Bible class and was president of the Men's Brotherhood.

In October, 1921, Rob returned again to Pittsburgh and associated himself with his brother-in-law, Fred C. Haller, of the Haller Baking Co., serving as manager and engineer in the manufacture of the Haller Travelling Oven. Robert Haller Rall was born April 4, 1925. He weighed but three pounds at birth but quadrupled his weight in six months. He probably owes his life to the skill and persistence of Dr. George W. Rall. Esther's courage and the best medical skill at the right time brought her out after a week in which life and death hung in the balance.

B. The Rall Family

JAKOB RALL, MUELLER. The name of the calling was appended, in this case miller, to aid in distinguishing the numerous Ralls. He married Anna Christina Haeuszin.

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DAVID RALL, MUELLER, born April 29, 1674, died Nov. 14, 1702. Some of these dates cannot be asserted positively because of partial illegibility of the old records. He married Agnese Engel.

* * *

DAVID RALL, MUELLER, born Jan. 22, 1714, died July 11, 1753. Married Dorothea Rall.

* * *

JOHANN GEORG RALL, born Feb. 24, 1740, died Feb. 15, 1823. Married Elisabet Jaeger, born Sept. 14, 1742, died Dec. 26, 1831.

* * *

JOHANN GEORG RALL, born Jan. 16, 1771, died Oct. 22, 1841. Married Maria Barbara Muehleisen, born June 21, 1773, died April 21, 1827.

* * *

The children of this marriage were the four brothers: Julius Friedrich, Johann Georg, Christian Ludwig, and Jakob. Jakob died as a bachelor about 1880. The families of the others are given, so far as known, in the following tables, the eldest being the father of Charles Otto Rall and our grandfather.

* * *

I. THE DESCENDANTS OF JULIUS FRIEDRICH RALL

Julius Friedrich Rall, born 1797, died 1842
Agathe Leuze, born 1803, died Nov. 20, 1867

I. FRIEDRICKE RALL, born April 1, 1829, died Sept. 17, 1907, married Philip Muehleisen, born May 21, 1821, merchant in Straubing, died March 24, 1892. They had five children.

1. Julius Friedrich, born July 13, 1854, died March 8, 1876.

2. Beate Agathe Muehleisen, born Jan. 6, 1857, married David Koch, born April 3, 1852, died April 4, 1911.
3. Otto Georg, born Aug. 9, 1858, died Nov. 17, 1904, married Rosina Schum, born Feb. 12, 1863, died Sept., 1925.
 - a. Otto Adam, born Jan. 30, 1887, married Alexandra Goetze, born July 21, 1894.
 - (1) Margot, born April 7, 1914.
4. Gustav Jakob, born Dec. 22, 1859, died Jan. 15, 1903, married Anna Zirngibel, died about 1904.
5. Ludwig Adolf, born Nov. 19, 1862, married Rosa Wagenseil, born Sept. 26, 1871, died April 23, 1915.

II. CHRISTINA RALL, died 1868, married Benjamin Weiser, deceased.

1. Bertha (died 1870).
2. Mathilde, born March 8, 1854, died ——— 1925, married J. P. Pflaum.
 - a. Nellie; b. Theophilus; c. Pauline; d. Ruth; all deceased.
 - e. William, married ———
 - f. Martha, married Otto E. J. Zahn, one child.
 - g. Fred, married ———, one child.
 - h. George, married ———.
3. Julie, (deceased) married Fritz Rabus (deceased)
 - a. Fritz Rabus, married ———, one son.
 - b. Gretchen Rabus, married Lieut. Lauerer, (died Oct. 30, 1914). Married again to ——— Kirchner.
 - c. Pauline Rabus, married Fritz Gruener, two children.
4. Otto, (died in 1869).
5. Pauline, (died in 1884).

III. JAKOB RALL, born in Eningen May 2, 1833, died Nov. 24, 1888, married Agathe Duerr, born June 2, 1835, died Oct. 14, 1909.

1. Friedrich, born Dec. 16, 1863, died Oct. 27, 1904.
2. Rosa, born Nov. 8, 1864, died Oct. 23, 1925, married Heinrich Sommer, born Feb. 10, 1860.
 - a. Rosa, born May 22, 1889, married Paul Lauer.
 - b. Frida, born April 28, 1890, married Richard Joos.

- c. Hedwig, born May 16, 1891.
- d. Hermann, born June 29, 1895, married Maria Pfeiffer.
(1) Guenther.
- e. Julie, born Oct. 13, 1896, married Alfred Voester (living at 2637 McAllister St., San Francisco).
(1) Julie.
- f. Gertrud, born Sept. 7, 1901.
- g. Elisabeth, born June 30, 1903.
- h. Martha, born June 7, 1906.

IV. KARL OTTO, (Charles Otto) born Feb. 28, 1838, died July 30, 1897. Married Anna Steiner, born Sept. 11, 1836, died Jan. 27, 1900.

- 1. Julius Frederick Rall, born March 18, 1863.
Flora Ashby
 - a. Richard Ashby Rall, born Nov. 9, 1897
Dorothy Livesay,
Dorothy Jane
Richard Ashby, Jr.
 - b. Staten Eugene, born Oct. 1, 1900
 - c. Owen Frederick Rall, born Dec. 1, 1901
Bertha Biederman
Kathryn
 - d. Everett Orville, born June 26, 1909
- 2. Charles Rudolph Rall, born Oct. 9, 1865
Clara Hieber (deceased)
Married (2) Elizabeth Hieber
 - a. Charles Otto, born Feb. 25, 1908
- 3. William Anton Rall, born May 5, 1868
Nell Blanchard
 - a. Donald (deceased)
 - b. Mildred, born Oct. 2, 1902
- 4. Harris Franklin Rall, born Feb. 23, 1870
Rose St. John (died June 11, 1921)
 - a. Mary Elspeth, born Oct. 11, 1901.
Married (2) Maud St. John
- 5. Anna Rall, born Feb. 19, 1872
William C. Nuhn
 - a. Anna Marjorie, born Oct. 31, 1898
 - b. Ferner Rall, born July 25, 1903
 - c. Hilda Carolyn, born March 31, 1906
- 6. George Washington Rall, born Jan. 23, 1874

7. Edward Everett Rall, born Feb. 11, 1876
Nell Platt
a. Joseph Edward, born Feb. 3, 1920
8. Carolyn Louise Rall, born April 1, 1878 (deceased)
Orville Elder
a. David Rall, born April 18, 1911
Orville Elder married (2) Josephine Miller
9. Robert Otto Rall, born Feb. 9, 1881
Esther Haller
a. Marianna, born Jan. 17, 1917
b. Robert Haller, born April 4, 1925.

* * *

II. THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHANN GEORG RALL

Johann Georg Rall, born Oct. 10, 1798, died June 17, 1846

Friedericke Hofstetter, born June 19, 1810, died July 4, 1871

- I. KARL ROBERT RALL, born Oct. 6, 1831, died March 13, 1877
Married (1) Beate Leuze, (2) Maria Horn
- II. RUDOLPH FRIEDRICH RALL, born April 25, 1835, died in N. Y. Aug 7, 1885
Emilie Maichel
 1. Albert G., one son, Herman.
 2. Herman F., one daughter
- III. EMILIE CHRISTINA DOROTHEA RALL, born Oct. 23, 1840 (deceased)
- IV. CLOTHILDE AGATHE RALL, born April 4, 1842, died Jan. 10, 1898
Ferdinand Haug, died 1925
 1. Emilie Charlotte Friedericke, born Jan. 14, 1868
Heinrich Ludwig Gross, born April 3, 1864 (Oberregierungs-rath in Stuttgart)
 2. Helene Mathilde, born Oct. 10, 1870
Ludwig Siegmund Abel, born Nov. 30, 1856 (merchant in Mannheim)
 - a. Elspeth Hedwig Clothilde, born Oct. 4, 1895
Erich Bahl
Klaus Erich
 - b. Helene Charlotte Emilie, born July 29, 1897
Friedrich Heinze
Hans Dietrich

3. Alfred Karl Hermann, born May 15, 1873 (Consul General in Pretoria, S. Africa)
Monica Elisabet von Buelow
4. Wilhelm Otto Ferdinand, born July 4, 1882, died July 3, 1901

* * *

III. THE DESCENDANTS OF CHRISTIAN LUDWIG RALL

(Christian Ludwig Rall married Dorothea Leuze. The data given were gotten some time ago and have not been brought to date)

- I. MATHILDE RALL, died 1864
- II. EUGEN RALL,
 1. Marie (deceased)
 2. Thekla, married Emil Heinrich, were living in Schwarzenbach, two children, Alfred and a daughter.
 3. Eugenie
 4. Alfred
 5. Reinhold
- III. DR. OSKAR RALL, (deceased). Widow was living in Munich. They had two children, Oscar, married, apothecary in Munich, and Lena.
- IV. THEODOR RALL, was in business in Woerth, married Paula Hochholzner.
 1. Dr. Eduard Rall, was professor in Gymnasium in Bremen, married and had one son, Wolfgang.
 2. Fritz Rall, was a merchant in Gera.
 3. Robert Rall
- V. ALBERT RALL (deceased)
- VI. THEKLA RALL, married Heinrich Arnold (deceased), has son, Heinrich.
- VII. AMALIE RALL, died at about 17.
- VIII. HERMANN RALL, married Josephine Prechtel (deceased)
- IX. EMMA RALL, died at age of 20.
- X. REINHOLD RALL and two others (deceased)

C. The Steiner Family

Johann Steiner, of Roman Catholic faith, living in Neuchatel, Switzerland, after marriage to a Protestant girl removed to Zizers, Switzerland.

Johann Battista Steiner, his son, married a Meier.

Johann Steiner, their son, born 1798, died Sept. 18, 1850. Married Anna Barbara Joos in 1826, and settled in Andeer, Canton Graubuenden. Anna Barbara Joos, born Dec. 25, 1807, died July 4, 1905, was one of ten children: Anna, Christina, Katrina, Conradin, Georg, Raget, Jakob, Anna Barbara, and two others who died in infancy.

To Johann and Anna Barbara Joos Steiner nine children were born: Ursula (who later took the name Julia), Anna Margreth, Johann Battista, Katrina, Anna, Christina, Elizabeth, Jakob, and Anna Barbara. Of these Elizabeth and Anna Barbara died in infancy. The families of the remaining seven children are given below, with the form of name as used by them in this country.

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I. DESCENDANTS OF JULIA STEINER NIEBAUM

Henry H. Niebaum, died Jan 31, 1885

Julia Steiner Niebaum, born Jan. 16, 1828, died March 16, 1911

- I. LIZZIE A. B. NIEBAUM (deceased)
- II. WILLIAM H. NIEBAUM
 - 1. Irene Niebaum
 - 2. Julia Niebaum
 - 3. Anna Niebaum (deceased)
 - 4. Laura Niebaum
- III. HARRY J. G. NIEBAUM married Emma Cronmiller
 - 1. Christiana
 - 2. Caroline
- IV. LAURA M. NIEBAUM

II. DESCENDANTS OF MARGARET STEINER SCHAEFFER

Charles Schaeffer (deceased)
Margaret Steiner Schaeffer, born Dec. 19, 1829, died
Aug., 1913

- I. JULIA SCHAEFFER married Wm. Ehrhardt
 - 1. E. Stella Ehrhardt married Albert Hanners
 - a. Harvey
 - b. Laverne
 - c. Warren
 - d. Vivian (deceased)
 - e. Eleanor
 - f. Albert
 - 2. Alvin Ehrhardt married _____
 - a. Lawrence
 - b. Ray
 - 3. Edward Ehrhardt married _____
 - a. Kenneth
 - b. Grace
 - c. Irene
 - d. Lola
 - 4. Laura Ehrhardt (deceased)
 - 5. Delmar Ehrhardt
 - 6. Milton Ehrhardt
 - 7. Clinton Ehrhardt

- II. ANNIE SCHAEFFER married Fred Shunk
 - 1. Lydia
 - 2. Philip married _____
 - 3. Clara
 - 4. Wesley

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III. DESCENDANTS OF JOHN B. STEINER

John B. Steiner, born Dec. 31, 1831, died Jan. 29, 1917
Agnes Kaflisch (deceased); (2) Susan Renner (died 1924)

- I. JULIA STEINER married Henry Grantman (deceased)
 - 1. Agnes Grantman married Rev. Wm. Abe
 - a. William
 - 2. Laura (deceased)
 - 3. Anna Grantman

4. Clara Grantman married Raymond Lepien
 - a. Ivah Rae
 - b. Marjorie Lepien
 5. Alma Grantman
 6. Henry Grantman married _____
 7. Lillian Grantman married Will Scheer
 - a. William
 - b. Lois
 8. John Grantman married _____
 - a. James
 - b. Jean
 9. Harold
- II. JACOB D. STEINER married Amanda Corte
1. John Steiner married _____
 - a. Marine Dall
 - b. Marguerite Au
 2. Edwin Steiner
 3. Roy Steiner
 4. Edna Steiner
 5. Alan Steiner married _____
 - a. Shirley May
 - b. Donna May
 - c. Marcile
 6. Mildred Steiner
- III. JOHN F. STEINER married Sophie Kaiser
1. Adelheit Steiner married Elden Gieske
 2. Lillian Steiner
 3. Gertrude Steiner married Frank T. Neal
 - a. William John
 - b. Helen Barbara
 4. Elizabeth Steiner
- IV. WM. H. STEINER (deceased) married Sarah George
1. Susanne
 2. Victor
 3. Edna
 4. Beulah
 5. Marguerite
- V. SARAH STEINER married Geo. Renner (deceased)
1. John Renner married _____
 - a. Lyle John
 2. Laura
 3. George

- VI. EMMA STEINER married Fred Geier
 - 1. Myrtle Geier married Dr. E. Wegner
 - a. Mary Jean
 - 2. John Roy Geier married _____
 - a. James Roy
 - b. Donald
- VII. EDWARD E. STEINER married Lizzie Steiner (see also V. under Jacob J. Steiner.)
 - 1. Florence Steiner married Fred Scheer
 - a. Janette
 - b. Virginia
 - c. Donald
 - 2. Myrtle
 - 3. Lucile
- VIII. LAURA STEINER married John Zimmerman
 - 1. Edgar
 - 2. Lillian
 - 3. John
 - 4. Anna
 - 5. Ruth
- IX. LILLIE STEINER married August Huebner
 - 1. Jewell John
 - 2. Merlin

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IV. DESCENDANTS OF KATHERINE STEINER RAGATZ

Oswald Ragatz, born March 17, 1833, died April 26, 1880
Katherine Steiner Ragatz, born Aug. 17, 1834, died
Oct. 7 1910

- I. ANNA RAGATZ (deceased) married Wm. Stegner (deceased)
 - 1. Arthur W. D.
 - 2. Dewayne
 - 3. Grace Stegner married Bert Cable
 - 4. Hope Stegner married Mr. Olin
 - 5. May Stegner married Mr. Shobert
- II. LYDIA RAGATZ (deceased) married Mr. Weber
 - 1. Waldo

- III. JULIA RAGATZ (deceased) married Washington Stegner
 - 1. Susan (deceased)
 - 2. Evangeline (deceased)
 - 3. Ruth Stegner married H. Horman
 - 4. Gertrude (deceased)
 - 5. Edward
 - 6. Wesley
- IV. CHRISTINA RAGATZ (deceased) married Mr. Duttenhofer
- V. SAM RAGATZ (deceased)
- VI. EDWARD O. RAGATZ (deceased)
 - 1. Edward
- VII. EMMA L. RAGATZ (deceased)
- VIII. BENJAMIN J. RAGATZ married _____
 - 1. Oswald
- IX. ARTHUR F. RAGATZ married Martha J. Dickinson (died July 18, 1918)
 - 1. Marguerite (deceased)
 - 2. Gladys (deceased)
 - 3. Henry
 Married (2) Ruth Hammond

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V. DESCENDANTS OF ANNA STEINER RALL

Charles Otto Rall, born Feb. 28, 1838, died July 30, 1897
Anna Steiner Rall, born Sept. 11, 1836, died Jan. 27, 1900
(See under Rall Family)

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VI. DESCENDANTS OF CHRISTINA STEINER HUELSTER

Frederick Huelster, born Sept. 25, 1830, died April 6, 1905
Christina Steiner Huelster, born Dec. 5, 1838, died Jan. 23, 1899

- I. HENRY F. HUELSTER married Friederika Neff
 - 1. Mildred Huelster married Marshall B. Elson
 - a. Ardis
 - b. Marshall, Jr.

2. Wallace Huelster married Helen _____
 - a. Doris
 - b. Helen
 - c. Marjorie
3. Howard Huelster married Gladys Finell
 - a. Dorothy Louise
 - b. Howard, Jr.
- II. EMMA L. HUELSTER married John H. Niebaum
 1. Robert J. (deceased)
 2. Clara Niebaum married Edward T. Brown
 3. Sarah
- III. SARA HUELSTER married Charles F. Keiser
 1. Wilbert Keiser married Lucile Marshall
 - a. Richard
 2. Florence
- IV. CLARA HUELSTER
- V. FRED HUELSTER married Juanita Koser
 1. Lowell
 2. Harold
 3. Earl
- VI. ARTHUR HUELSTER married Martha Denstead
 1. Alice
 2. Robert
- VII. ADDA HUELSTER married Fred Millhouse
 1. Russell married _____
 2. Gretchen
- VIII. ELIZABETH HUELSTER married Karl Knoche
 1. Jack Henry
 2. Margaret Elizabeth
 3. Carla
- IX. LUELLA HUELSTER married Crawford Bishop
 1. James Bashford
 2. Morrison C.
 3. Richard
 4. Leighton
 5. Barbara

VII. DESCENDANTS OF JACOB J. STEINER

Jacob J. Steiner, born Feb. 17, 1843
Sophia Raling, died 1896; (2) Matilda Diesterhaupt

- I. OTTO C. STEINER married _____
 - 1. Herbert
 - 2. Arnold
 - 3. Joos
 - 4. Viola
- II. FRED W. STEINER married Dora Rose
 - 1. Jacob Steiner married _____
 - 2. Mildred Steiner married Fred Scharf
 - 3. Sylvia Steiner married Allie Kiefer
 - 4. Bernice Steiner
 - 5. Claude Steiner
- III. AMELIA STEINER married Robert Bentley
 - 1. Earl Bentley married _____
 - 2. Ruth
 - 3. Roy
- IV. HENRY F. STEINER married Minnie Zimmerman
 - 1. Gertrude married Herbert Fenner
 - 2. Irene
- V. LIZZIE STEINER married Ed Steiner (For balance see VIII under John B. Steiner)
- VI. ESTHER STEINER
- VII. GEORGE J. STEINER married Susan Welch
 - 1. Theresa
 - 2. Lillian
 - 3. Mabel
 - 4. Joan

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At the time of Grandmother Steiner's death in 1905, she had 132 living descendants. These tables show the following direct descendants up to 1925: 9 children, 49 grandchildren, 189 great-grandchildren, and 44 great-great-grandchildren, or 291 in all. Of these, 261 are now living. Grandfather Julius Friedrich Rall died in 1842 and Grandmother Rall in 1867. Their descendants to date have numbered 69, that is, 4 children, 21 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren. Of these descendants, 49 are now living.

